

tures for 1952—George H. T. Kimble—*George Grady Press*, 123 p., \$2.50. The author, who is director of the American Geographical Society, attempts to bring the study of man "down to earth" in the hope that it may kindle in his readers "a warmer affection for this best of all possible worlds."

THE WORKS OF ARCHIMEDES: Edited in Modern Notation With Introductory Chapters—T. L. Heath—*Dover*, 326 p., paper \$1.95, cloth \$4.95. A classical work combined into a single volume for the convenience of students.

Science News Letter, September 19, 1953

## PLANT PATHOLOGY

## Chemical Treatment Stops Oak Wilt Killing

► SUCCESSFUL CHEMICAL treatment of oak wilt, destructive disease of shade and forest trees that is now spreading in many parts of the nation, has been accomplished.

Dr. Paul F. Hoffman of the Illinois Natural History Survey, reported to the American Institute of the Biological Sciences meeting in Madison, Wis., that eight different chemicals give promise of rescuing seedling and sapling oaks from death. In some experiments, three-quarters of the trees recovered and resumed apparently normal growth. The chemicals seem to change the growth processes of the trees and allow them to live despite the presence of the fungus.

Some of the other advances reported to the biological meetings are:

Disease resistance can be introduced into tomato plants from several wild plant "cousins" collected in South America.—Dr. S. P. Doolittle, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The age and geographical origin of the large ice islands floating near the North Pole and used as U. S. air bases will be determined by further study of dead plant materials collected from them.—Dr. Nicholas Polunin of Harvard University.

A perennial plague of thousands of acres of beans, called halo blight, can be stopped and cured by water spray containing small amounts of streptomycin.—Dr. William J. Zaumeyer, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Perch in lakes reform into schools at about dawn and go into deep water for day-time feeding.—J. J. Tibbles, A. D. Hasler and J. R. Villemont of University of Wisconsin.

Greenhouse watering of chrysanthemums, carnations, roses and other flowering plants by automatically-timed mist spray two minutes out of every six speeds their growth.—Robert W. Langhans, Cornell University.

Bluegills eat six times their own weight in a year.—Prof. Shelby Gerking, Indiana University.

Whitefish in Alaskan lakes store up fat for winter months like bears and other mammals.—Prof. Donald E. Wohlschlag, Stanford University.

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## MEDICINE

## Growth Hormone Fails In Poliomyelitis Test

► HOPE THAT growth hormone from the pituitary gland might be helpful in polio died with studies reported at the meeting of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics in New Haven.

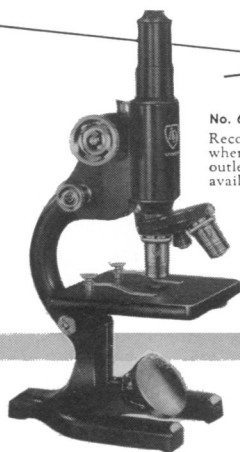
Growth hormone was tested because previous studies had shown that ACTH, pituitary hormone famous as an arthritis remedy, could increase the severity of polio. ACTH and growth hormone are antagonis-

tic in certain respects. So Drs. Kenneth W. Cochran and Thomas Francis Jr. of the University of Michigan School of Public Health decided to see whether growth hormone would antagonize naturally produced ACTH and help relieve the severity of polio.

They gave practically pure growth hormone to six monkeys for 12 days. Then these six and six control, untreated monkeys were inoculated with polio virus. All six of the growth-hormone-treated monkeys became paralyzed, and five of the six control monkeys were paralyzed.

Science News Letter, September 19, 1953

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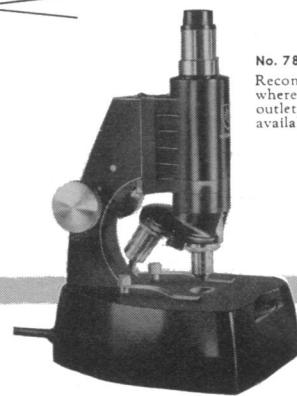


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