

the methods used most frequently in a clinical laboratory. Each one is tested and double-checked.

**TEXTBOOK OF GYNECOLOGY**—John I. Brewer—*Williams and Wilkins*, 532 p., illus., \$10.00. Based on the method used in instruction at Northwestern University Medical School—starting with the patient and her symptoms and progressing on to diagnosis and treatment.

**THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA 1952-53**—E. W. R. Steacie, president—*National Research Council of Canada*, 54 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, Ottawa 2, Canada. A review in non-technical language of the many research projects in process. In English and in French.

**TIGRERO**—Sasha Siemel—*Prentice-Hall*, 266 p., \$3.95. The author is said to be the only living white man who has fought jungle jaguars with only a spear. This is the romantic story of a Latvian hunter's life in the jungles of Brazil.

**THE TRACK OF MAN: Adventures of an Anthropologist**—Henry Field—*Doubleday*, 448 p., illus., \$5.95. The romantic autobiography of a distinguished scientist and his search since childhood for the origin of prehistoric man.

**WAYS OF MAMMALS: In Fact and Fancy**—Clifford B. Moore—*Ronald Press*, 273 p., \$3.50. Bringing together the most interesting and persistent myths, superstitions and misconceptions about mammals.

**WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA**—Paintings by Mary Vaux Walcott and Dorothy Falcon Platt, text by H. W. Rickett—*Crown*, 71 p., 400 plates, \$10.00. Lovely full-color reproductions of paintings made directly from nature by the wife of the former secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

**A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO FINANCIAL SECURITY**—Joyce Clarke and Sally Dickson—*Barrows*, 185 p., \$2.75. Advice to women on how to manage their savings so as to assure the greatest future benefits.

**WOOL AS AN APPAREL FIBER**—Giles E. Hopkins—*Rinehart*, 110 p., illus., \$1.50. Making public the scientific findings on the complicated structure and qualities of the wool fiber.

Science News Letter, October 31, 1953

#### MEDICINE

### Advise Sitting Up to Give Blood for Bank

► **MANY BLOOD** donors prefer to sit up while their blood is being taken instead of lying down as is now customary. This donor preference, plus the saving in space when chairs are used instead of tables or beds, led Dr. R. O. Muether and his associate, B. Koster, of St. Louis to recommend the sitting up position in a report to the American Association of Blood Banks meeting in Chicago.

They found no appreciable difference in blood pressure, pulse rate or number of reactions between 85 donors who sat up and 105 who lay down while giving blood.

Science News Letter, October 31, 1953

#### MEDICINE

## Drug Gives Asthma Relief

New preparation related to some of the anti-malaria drugs developed during the war gave complete long-lasting relief to fourth of 285 patients.

► **SUCCESS** IN treating asthma with a new drug related to some of the anti-malaria drugs developed during the war was announced by Dr. Charles F. Geschickter of Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, D. C., at the meeting of the Maryland Academy of General Practice in Baltimore.

The drug was made by Dr. Leonard M. Rice, research associate at Georgetown, at Dr. Geschickter's suggestion. It is a 4-amino quinoline derivative. It has no short name as yet, though probably it will be given one when it goes on the market. So far it is not available commercially.

Dr. Geschickter has used it to treat 285 patients with bronchial asthma. One-fourth of the patients have had complete relief of symptoms for two to four years after treatment with the drug was stopped.

Results have been especially good in the 155 children. There were only 2.5% failures in this group. Among 50 young adults there were failures in 5% of the cases, and

in the group of 80 over 40 years old there were 10% failures.

The drug is both concentrated and fixed in breathing tissues where it acts both as a bronchial dilator and as an antihistamine. Observation of kind and site of action of some of the anti-malaria drugs made during the war led Dr. Geschickter to believe a similar drug could be made to bring relief to asthmatics.

In all cases the quinoline derivative is given combined with an anti-allergy drug, phenylpyramine. In acute attacks patients are also given another new drug made by Dr. Rice, theophylline diaminopropanol, which does not cause the nausea or other unpleasant side effects of theophylline itself.

The quinoline drug is usually given in capsules to be swallowed every day. Relief of symptoms in some cases comes very fast, in others the drug has to be taken for a longer period.

Dr. Rice has assigned patent rights on the new drug to the Geschickter Fund for Medical Research which is now planning for commercial production of it.

Science News Letter, October 31, 1953

## Questions

**ASTRONOMY**—Where will the national observatory and telescope probably be located? p. 279.

**ENTOMOLOGY**—How is the migration of locusts traced by scientists? p. 276.

**EVOLUTION**—What 300,000,000-year-old animal is at last being studied? p. 281.

**MEDICINE**—Should you leave a tourniquet on until the doctor comes? p. 282.

What should you do if your toes are frost-bitten? p. 277.

Who received the Nobel Prize in Medicine for 1953? p. 275.

**RESOURCES**—What is the cause of the nation's water shortage? p. 276.

Photographs: Cover, U. S. Navy; p. 274, Harvard University; p. 275, Harvard University and Lasker Foundation; p. 277, United Air Lines; p. 279, Cornell University; p. 283, Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton Corp.; p. 288, Good-year Tire and Rubber Co.

A weight saving of one pound in a jet engine's compressor rotor blade may save up to five additional pounds in supporting members.

Two gallons of modern gasoline are equivalent in power and energy to three gallons of 1925 vintage.

The axolotl, a salamander, eats more than its own weight in a single meal.

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