

MEDICINE

Anti-Diarrhea Drug Made Of Resin and Antibiotics

➤ A DRUG that may be just what the doctor orders for the intestinal upset known as summer diarrhea is being made available for general use by prescription only starting in August.

The drug is called Resion-PMS by its manufacturer, The National Drug Co. of Philadelphia. It combines an ion exchange resin with the antibiotic, Polymyxin, and a kind of sulfa drug, Phthalylsulfacetamide.

Good results with this treatment of diarrhea associated with ulcerative colitis, irritable colon, and the use of antibiotic medicines also in so-called summer diarrhea are reported by Dr. Jerome Weiss of Poly-clinic Hospital, New York, in the *American Journal of Gastroenterology* (July).

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

INVENTION

U. S. Patents Available For Public License


➤ GOVERNMENT-OWNED inventions relating to instruments used in laboratories and industry are listed in a new publication of the Government Patents Board (see p. 124).

Those who wish to use these new developments can usually obtain a royalty-free license.

The 775 government-owned inventions include a device for detecting radioactivity, a fluid selecting apparatus for handling corrosive liquids, a pocket radiation alarm, a pocket radiation meter, a humidity measuring device, a remote control manipulator, a detector for carbon monoxide and a pressure measuring device.

Dr. Archie M. Palmer of the Government Patents Board announced that this is the first of a series of seven publications on government-owned inventions to be issued in the coming months.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954



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ZOOLOGY

NATURE RAMBLINGS



Caterpillars

➤ IF HUMANS could only control caterpillars with some sort of radio directing device, the drudgery of clipping hedges, mowing lawns, pruning trees and weeding the garden would be over for all time.

Lucullus was a dainty eater compared to the caterpillar. With shearing jaw-action spurred on by prodigious appetite, this fuzzy little monster spends most of its young life chomping away at flowers, foliage, or food in the garden. He chews and chews and chews and chews. The more he eats, the bigger he grows, and the bigger he grows, the more he eats.

The coming of fall sends most caterpillars off to hibernation, spun in rough silky cocoons. But there are some which seem to care nothing for first hints of frost. Bristling little orange-and-black fellows, commonly called woolly bears, nonchalantly hump themselves across the sidewalk on warm September and October days.

When winter does come, the woolly bear merely hunts himself a well-sheltered corner, curls up and goes to sleep without the formality of a silken sleeping bag. He dreams of early spring, when he will begin eating again, fattening up for the mysterious transformation into a butterfly or gauze-winged moth.

Caterpillars are unpleasant-looking creatures, except perhaps to other caterpillars. Some have gaily-colored coats, but many more are naked, squidgy things, like the cabbage worm or green maple worm. The bigger they are, the more repulsive they are to the squeamish—the cecropia, with its rows of stiff, short bristles; the tobacco caterpillar, with its long horn to whack you if you meddle too persistently; the puss and the sphinx which rear up and try to stare you out of countenance.

The caterpillar's life is a hazardous one. His soft, helpless, juicy body is a choice morsel for birds, wasps, ants and other insects. Fungi prey upon him, and man attacks him with poisonous chemicals. But his most terrifying enemy is the family of parasites which likes nothing better than to eat him alive from the inside out.

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TECHNOLOGY

Sound Waves Pierce Rubber in Atomic Sub

➤ RUBBER PANELS that sound waves can penetrate just as they travel through the sea itself are being used for the ears of the world's first atom-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus.

The panels form a part of the sub's hull and house the sonar gear, which detects other surface and undersea craft by reflected sound waves.

They are installed at both bow and stern, and are constructed to withstand forces as great as those bearing upon the steel outer hulls of conventional submarines.

Engineers at B. F. Goodrich, Akron, Ohio, who developed the rubber panels say the use of any material that cannot be made to share the characteristics of sea water would cause the sonar signals to blank out or distort so that location of the target would not be accurate.

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Questions

ASTRONOMY — Who first discovered that Venus changes phases? p. 122.

ENTOMOLOGY—When were the first corn borers introduced into this country? p. 116.

MARINE BIOLOGY—What is one cause of the critical decline in walrus in the Atlantic? p. 116.

METEOROLOGY—What year was the driest for the U. S. as a whole? p. 117.

ORNITHOLOGY—Of what use is a tumorous parakeet? p. 119.

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