

MEDICINE

Remedy for Dysentery

New drug also shows promise of curing the non-dysentery form of amebiasis. First synthesized in search for anti-malaria drugs. Is called Camoform.

➤ A NEW drug that shows promise of curing both amebic dysentery and the non-dysentery form of the disease is announced in Detroit.

The drug was first synthesized in the World War II search for new anti-malaria drugs by Frank H. Tendick of Parke, Davis and Company, Detroit. About four years ago Drs. Paul E. Thompson and Alexander M. Moore discovered its antiamebic activity.

Success with the drug, called Camoform, in treating patients is now reported by Dr. Horacio Barrios of Iquitos, Peru, and Dr. J. Maria Bustamante y Rivero of Arequipa, Peru.

Dr. Barrios reports that in his controlled and followed-up study of 20 amebic dysentery patients treated with Camoform "all were cleared of infection." Acute symptoms, such as abdominal pain, fever and diarrhea, were "rapidly controlled, most of them two days after treatment began."

The physician pointed out that one patient had been sick and suffered relapses for two years before undergoing Camoform therapy. Twenty-two days of treatment cleared up the ameba, and the patient continued negative at the five-month follow-up.

Dr. Bustamante said 82 out of 85 Camo-

form-treated patients with acute amebic colitis were negative between the sixth and 15th days after therapy had begun.

He added that even in the three remaining cases a clinical cure was obtained, and only the laboratory showed the presence of amebas.

Dr. Bustamante also reported Camoform was effective in the treatment of chronic carriers of ameba.

Camoform is an organic compound and does not contain arsenic or other toxic heavy metals. It is given by mouth and because it tends to remain in the tissues for long periods it may have preventive action against amebic infections. It is not yet generally available.

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CHEMISTRY

Detect War Gases By Color Reaction

➤ FAST-KILLING NERVE gases as well as other war gases in the air can be detected by characteristic color reactions with a specially prepared silica gel.

This was revealed when the Army Chem-

ical Corps announced, through the New York Procurement District, that one of its contractors had voluntarily refunded the sum of \$31,307.25 to the Government. The money represented savings from previously established manufacturing costs achieved through improved production techniques and high efficiency.

The thrifty manufacturing concern is the George W. Luft Company of Long Island City, N. Y.

The company produced several types of clips used to detect chemical war gases. Chemical Corps spokesmen told SCIENCE SERVICE that this includes nerve gases.

The clips are composed of a series of lead tubes attached to a lignolite board. Each lead tube is a protective covering for an inner capillary tube containing a quantity of specially prepared silica gel. This material reacts characteristically upon exposure to toxic agents. There are various types of clips for each known war gas.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Listener, Not Adviser, Best Role for Oldsters

➤ THE OLDSTERS among us, men and women over age 65, can help more as listeners than as advisers, in the opinion of Dr. Alan Gregg, vice-president of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York.

Dr. Gregg discounts the wisdom of the elder generation.

"The wisdom that comes from experience comes by freight," he declared in a talk to medical scientists at the National Institutes of Health in Washington.

Aged 64 himself, Dr. Gregg was giving some pointers, if not advice, to the scientists on the subject of changing jobs.

Much of what he said, however, applies to men and women in other lines of work.

Elderly men and women, he said, can make a special contribution. Their wisdom, based on experience, must be discounted because new knowledge has come so fast and practices and conditions have changed so much and so fast that those over 65 cannot draw upon long experience for the basis of their advice.

But if they cannot advise from experience, they can listen.

"The best thing an adviser does is to listen," Dr. Gregg stated.

"In addition to listening, our best advisers, like our best trustees, reinforce our consciences by being the kind of people we don't like to disappoint. Merely as listeners they provide unconsciously some of the standards and criteria we like to be guided by. Also, young people don't quarrel as quickly or as unfairly in the presence of seniors they respect; so elderly folk, provided they are alert, serve usefully as chairmen of potentially turbulent committee meetings."

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Tibet averages about 15,000 feet above sea level.



GAS DETECTOR KIT—Fast killing nerve gases and other war gases in the air have their presence shown by color reactions with the specially prepared silica gel in these clips.