MEDICINE

Whooping Cough Eased

➤ THE WHOOPS of whooping cough are markedly checked, both in number and severity, when children are given the antibiotic, Terramycin.

The decrease in number and severity of whoops shows up by the third day, Drs. Gustav Gavis, Samuel Weinberg, Benj. Newman and Solomon Chazas of New York reported at the Second Annual Symposium on Antibiotics. The symposium is sponsored by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration and the Journal, *Antibiotics and Chemotherapy*. (See SNL, Nov. 6, p. 291.)

Vomiting, often a distressing feature in early whooping cough, did not occur after the second day of Terramycin treatment. The children got well faster and there were no secondary bacterial complications.

Terramycin is also helping children with the kidney disease, nephrosis. It can be safely given over long periods of time and acts as a highly effective prophylactic in preventing pneumonia and streptococci infections which are most feared complications in children with nephrosis. The results of this use of Terramycin were reported by Drs. Harriet G. Guild and Don C. Petersen of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

More news on antibiotics against cancer: Injected into the arteries of patients with moderately advanced and far advanced cancers of the mouth, throat, sinuses and uterus, they clear up the usual heavy infections in such cases and thus allow better results from X-ray, radium and nitrogen mustard treatment, Drs. J. W. Grossman, J. G. Riley, R. E. MacQuigg and H. W. Merideth of the Lovelace Clinic and Foundation, Albuquerque, N. Mex., reported.

Less than a fifth of over 5,000 crude filtrates from soil microorganisms showed any effectiveness against a mouse cancer in the seven-year search for an anti-cancer agent from such antibiotic material, Drs. H. Christine Reilly, C. Chester Stock, Sonja M. Buckley, Donald A. Clarke and C. P. Rhoads of Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research and Cornell University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, New York, reported.

Ability of the antibiotic materials to check mouse cancer did not go with their ability to check microorganisms.

New Disease Fighters

➤ FROM THE same golden-colored mold that produces Aureomycin and Achromycin antibiotics, several new disease-fighting agents have been obtained. As yet unnamed, the new antibiotics are an antifungal agent and several antibacterial agents.

Six scientists from the Lederle Laboratories Division of American Cyanamid Co. reported on the substances, not yet completely isolated and identified.

They are Drs. J. H. Martin, A. J. Shay, L. M. Pruess, J. N. Porter, J. H. Mowat and N. Bohonos.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

New Student Draft Rights

➤ GRADUATE STUDENTS in the fields of science have been urged to see their campus Selective Service representatives immediately should they get their draft notices before completing their training.

Dr. Howard A. Meyerhoff of the Scientific Manpower Commission said that "compromises have been reached" which are designed to enable the better student to finish his schooling without draft interruption.

"The student has to be sharper," he said, "but once he has passed that Selective Service qualification test with a score of 80 or better, he should be left alone. The same thing is true for the man who stands in the top fourth of his class."

Dr. Meyerhoff referred to Executive Order 10,562 signed in September by President Eisenhower. It was an outgrowth of negotiations between the scientific Manpower Commission and the Engineering Manpower Commission with the Office of Defense Mobilization.

The order raises the qualifications a young man needs to postpone military service, but it is designed to enable qualifying students to finish training without the "worry of reclassification dangling over their heads."

When it appears that the Executive Order has been overlooked by local draft boards, the student should see his campus Selective Service representative to start the wheels turning, Dr. Meyerhoff said. The campus representative will get in touch with the draft board involved, and is urged to report the case to the Scientific Manpower Commission.

"We've worked hard to get this situation cleared up," Dr. Meyerhoff said, "and we're going to do our best to see that it works."

The "situation" to which Dr. Meyerhoff referred has been reflected in recent college enrollment figures. A SMC study involving 19 institutions revealed that, between May and October of 1953, at least 2,000 advanced graduate students in science and engineering "had been denied the opportunity to complete their studies." Dr. Meyerhoff said the situation still exists.

When asked whether students were using advanced studies as an academic draft-dodging technique, Dr. Meyerhoff said that he has no evidence of this.

"There isn't one in 20 who tries for graduate work to evade the draft," he said. "In the first place, they don't evade the draft. They merely delay it.

"And it's more of a sacrifice to stick to school until training is complete than to enter service at a younger age. But certain scientific and engineering training must be continuous, or else you lose men. Their interest may be diverted in the meantime, or they may forget the complex mathematics necessary in the field."

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PARASITOLOGY

Report First Drug Cure Of Acute Toxoplasmosis

➤ THE FIRST successful treatment of acute toxoplasmosis in a human was announced by Drs. R. F. Wettingfeld and R. H. Rowe of the Public Health Service Hospital, Memphis, and Dr. Don E. Eyles of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., at the meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in Memphis.

The patient was a woman laboratory technician who had been working on experimental toxoplasmosis in the Memphis laboratory of the National Institutes of Health.

After a month of vague illness, she became acutely sick with fever and swollen lymph glands. Her associates at the National Institutes of Health had previously found that a combination of a triple sulfa drug and the anti-malaria drug, Daraprim, were highly active against toxoplasmosis in mice.

So they gave the same drug treatment to their sick technician.

Her response to treatment was "immediate." Within 48 hours, her fever had disappeared and other signs of improvement followed. She had a prolonged period of convalescence but was finally discharged as "cured."

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PARASITOLOGY

Tumor-Producing Virus Spread by Mosquitoes

➤ A TUMOR-PRODUCING virus is spread by mosquitoes, Dr. Lawrence Kilham and Herbert T. Dalmat of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., reported at the American Society of Parasitologists meeting in Memphis.

The virus is the one that causes Shope fibroma, or tumor, among cottontail rabbits. The mosquitoes that spread the tumor virus belong to the same species, *Aedes aegypti*, that spreads yellow fever and virus encephalitis.

Unlike the situation in yellow fever, however, there is no tumor virus in the mosquito salivary glands. Instead, the tumor virus is localized entirely in the head parts.

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