



DRONE PHOTOGRAPHER—This radio-controlled drone plane assisted by JATO rocket races down a launcher. With this drone plane carrying a modern camera, front-line units can secure their own battlefield intelligence. See facing page.

MEDICINE

New Drug Is Calming

Meprobamate found to have good results with alcoholics and mental patients and is without undesirable side effects except for low blood pressure with large doses.

► A NEW tranquilizing drug called meprobamate is calming belligerent mental patients, helping alcoholics through the sobering-up process and relieving tension headaches, muscle spasm and other nervous states in less severely ill patients.

Reports on its good results with alcoholics and mental patients were given at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Atlanta.

Of 301 disturbed mental patients, 33 have been returned to their homes as a result of treatment with this drug, Dr. Veronica M. Pennington of Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield, Miss., reported. Another 29% have been greatly improved, 50% show some improvement and in 18% very little change is evident.

She found this new drug safe with almost complete lack of side effects, except for low blood pressure when large doses were given.

Patients must go on taking the drug in order to continue mentally healthy, just as diabetics usually must continue to take insulin to remain well. Of five patients who had gone home but had to return to the hospital, only one had continued to take the drug while at home as instructed.

A quality of this drug not previously reported is its ability to remove the odor of perspiration. Dr. Pennington reported that

four patients who for years had a "skunk-like odor" which no amount of bathing changed no longer have this disagreeable odor.

More than 74% of alcoholics benefited from the drug during the withdrawal period. Anxiety symptoms were relieved and the shakes lessened, Dr. Joseph Thimann of the Washingtonian Hospital, Boston, reported.

The drug is made by Wallace Laboratories, Inc., New Brunswick, N. J., who call it Miltown.

Unlike other tranquilizers, this drug in normal doses selectively depresses the deeper parts of the brain, calming without dulling the senses, according to animal studies reported by Dr. C. D. Hendley of Wallace Laboratories.

Science News Letter, January 7, 1956

GEOPHYSICS

Name Scientists To Direct IGY

► APPOINTMENT of three top scientists who will direct U. S. participation in programs of the International Geophysical Year, or IGY, was announced in Washington.

Dr. Edward O. Hulburt, retiring director of research at the Naval Research Labora-

tory in Washington, has been named senior scientist of the U. S. National Committee for IGY.

The Weather Bureau's director of meteorological research, Dr. Harry Wexler, was appointed chief scientist for the Antarctic program. Albert P. Crary will serve as Dr. Wexler's assistant, and also as chief scientist for glaciology studies in the Antarctica area.

The International Geophysical Year is a world-wide study of the earth, its seas and atmosphere scheduled to begin July 1, 1957. Scientists from more than 42 nations will cooperate in the most comprehensive and intensive study of this planet ever undertaken.

Particular emphasis will be placed on obtaining information from those areas where there have been few previous scientific studies.

Science News Letter, January 7, 1956

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Enzyme Chemical Helps Animal Wounds to Heal

► WOUNDS and inflammations in dogs, cats, cattle and horses are helped to heal quickly and completely by an enzyme chemical called pancreatic dornase, the American Veterinary Medical Association, Chicago, reports.

Another enzyme has been found useful in treating gangrenous mastitis in dairy cows, the association reports.

The enzymes are sometimes used alone and sometimes as an auxiliary to antibiotic treatment.

Science News Letter, January 7, 1956

MINERALOGY

"Deep Down" Minerals Created in Laboratory

► RARE MINERALS seldom found near the earth's surface have been created at the University of California at Los Angeles by subjecting common minerals to extreme pressures and temperatures.

Using a laboratory device called the "simple squeezer." Drs. George Kennedy and David Griggs and co-workers in U.C.L.A.'s Institute of Geophysics have duplicated conditions that form minerals at extreme depths in the earth's crust.

From common quartz they have created coesite, a dense mineral that can exist in nature only at a depth of 40 miles or more in the earth. They have made jade from feldspar and aragonite from limestone.

The U.C.L.A. scientists have also been able to make various dense aluminous minerals from ordinary clay. From data on temperatures and pressures required to make these minerals, the depths at which similar minerals are formed in the earth's crust can be determined.

Much of the work has been done at temperatures as high as 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit and at pressures up to 1,200,000 pounds per square inch.

Science News Letter, January 7, 1956