

which sometimes seem so formidable, are in no sense superhuman. They involve only improvement, great, to be sure, of pro-

cedures of observation and analysis, which the human race has always used.

Science News Letter, January 14, 1956

MEDICINE

Cold Vaccine Tests

Navy recruits are receiving shots against one kind of infectious cold. Already found successful in tests on prisoner volunteers. Many colds now plaguing us may be this type.

➤ TESTS of a new vaccine against one kind of infectious cold, maybe the kind that is plaguing many of us now, have started in a small group of Navy recruits at Great Lakes, Ill., Naval Training Station. They will be started in a second small group next month.

The tests are being made by the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 4 at Great Lakes, a Navy spokesman said.

The vaccine being tested is for the APC viruses. These viruses were isolated by Drs. R. J. Huebner, J. A. Bell and Victor Haas of the National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service. The NIH scientists made a vaccine against them and with Dr. T. G. Ward of Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene, Baltimore, tested the vaccine on prisoner volunteers. These tests on a small group showed the vaccine to be safe and effective.

The tests now under way among Navy recruits are still considered preliminary. Only a couple of hundred recruits are getting the vaccine. These small scale trials were set up to see how the vaccine works in a military establishment and to determine proper dosage. If the vaccine suc-

ceeds in safely protecting the couple of hundred recruits from APC infection, it is expected to get large scale trial among thousands of recruits.

APC viruses cause a special kind of cold, or upper respiratory disease to use the technically correct term. This is not the sneezing, runny nose type of cold. It is one in which its victims have sore throat and some fever. In summer outbreaks, the disease is less severe than in winter. Red eyes are a symptom of the summer APC attack.

APC viruses are very common and come at all seasons. In schools, military training establishments, orphanages, and the like, the APC viruses cause outbreaks or epidemics. Last summer an outbreak in Canada was traced to swimming pools.

Many of the colds now plaguing the population are believed due to APC viruses, although they have been so recently identified that facilities are not yet in existence for testing and reporting all cases. The letters APC stand for Adenoid, Pharynx in the throat and Conjunctiva of the eyes where the viruses were found.

Science News Letter, January 14, 1956

DENTISTRY

Saliva vs. Tooth Decay

➤ REPULSIVE to many, the mucus in saliva nevertheless may have an important role in preventing tooth decay. This is shown in studies by Dr. C. E. Klapper and associates at the University of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham, reported to the AAAS.

Most of the saliva in the mouth is produced by three pairs of glands. These are the submaxillary located below the angle of the lower jaw, the sublingual under the tongue, and the parotid glands in front of the ears, which are the ones that swell in mumps, Dr. Leon H. Schneyer of the university's dental school found.

Dr. Klapper put Syrian hamsters on a diet that is known to produce tooth decay in these animals. Then he tied off or removed all the saliva-producing glands in one group. Another had only the parotid glands tied off. A third had only the under-tongue glands removed. The fourth group had only the under-jaw glands removed.

The tooth decay scores after 70 days of the decay-producing diet were highest for the group with all saliva-producing glands removed, lowest for those with only the parotid glands removed. This showed the saliva produced by the parotid glands played little or no part in protecting against tooth decay. The other glands still in the mouth were keeping the decay down.

The under-tongue glands which produce the smallest amount of saliva, only five percent of the total, were more effective in protecting against tooth decay than the parotid glands which produce 25% of the total saliva.

The reason, Dr. Klapper reports, is in the difference in composition of the saliva produced by the different glands. The parotids produce exclusively a clear fluid type of saliva. The under-tongue glands produce only the mucus of saliva. The under-jaw glands produce some of each.

Science News Letter, January 14, 1956

● RADIO

Saturday, Jan. 21, 1956, 2:05-2:15 p.m. EST
"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. T. Campbell Thompson, surgeon-in-chief, Hospital for Special Surgery, New York City, will discuss "They Walk Again."

Spraying while trees are dormant is the only cure for *peach leaf curl*.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a seasonal disease that is likely to begin or grow worse in the colder months.

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