



MICE FOR RESEARCH—Shown here is only a small fraction of the 350,000 mice shipped annually from the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Me. The experimental animals, especially bred for research, are used by scientists all over the world in their battle against diseases.

MEDICINE

37,000 Disease Fighters

► IN ONE MONTH 37,000 fighters have left Bar Harbor, Me., for all parts of the world to battle cancer, muscular dystrophy, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and other disease enemies of mankind.

The 37,000 are pedigreed mice from the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, which renders this service at a price that only partially covers the cost of raising the animals.

The largest number of experimental animals ever to leave the laboratory in its 27 years of operation was shipped out in June, 1956. Bound for research centers all over the world, from scores of cities in the United States to cities such as Paris, Rome, and Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, these mice represent only a fraction of the 350,000 mice shipped annually from the Jackson Laboratory.

This figure is a far cry from the 89,000 mice shipped the year following the disastrous Bar Harbor fire that destroyed the laboratory in October, 1947.

When news of the laboratory's fire reached the ears of scientists around the world, they promptly set to work returning stocks of the laboratory's mice to Bar Harbor. Consequently, many of the 60 different strains of mice, some representing an equivalency of over 4,000 years of man's life, could be continued without loss.

Now, a million mice a year, nearly 3,000 a day, are produced at the laboratory, which uses 700,000 for research within its own walls.

During the fiscal year 1956-57, the Jack-

son Laboratory is expected greatly to surpass any other year in the production of laboratory mice for beneficial research to man.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956

GENERAL SCIENCE

Eighth National Science Fair Set for Los Angeles

► ONE of America's fastest growing states will be host to America's fastest growing scientific youth program next spring.

The Eighth National Science Fair will be held in Los Angeles, Calif., May 9 to 11, 1957, Watson Davis, director of SCIENCE SERVICE, has announced.

Conducted by Science Clubs of America and administered by SCIENCE SERVICE, the National Science Fair is designed to fill the gap in the nation's supply of scientists and engineers by stimulating an early interest in science in promising students in junior and senior high schools.

More than 250,000 young scientists will build scientific exhibits for preliminary local fairs. The best of these will be selected for showing at approximately 170 local or area fairs affiliated with the National Science Fair. Two of the best of those at each area fair, in turn, will be chosen for display at the National Science Fair in the Los Angeles County Museum next May.

Awards for the best exhibits in the National Science Fair include gifts of scientific equipment and books.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956

AERONAUTICS

Reactor Plane Makes Research Flights

See Front Cover

► THE WORLD'S FIRST airplane to fly with an operating atomic reactor aboard is pictured on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

The plane is the NB-36H, and it is powered with six pusher engines whose vapor trails indicate its great altitude, estimated at eight miles or higher. The low-powered atomic reactor does not power the plane, but is used to measure effects of radiation upon instruments, equipment and the NB-36H's airframe.

Methods of shielding the flight crew, reactor operators and electronic devices from radioactivity are also tested, as are new types of nuclear instruments.

Airscoops on the fuselage aft of the wing cool the reactor when it is operating, and are thought to indicate the reactor is located amidships.

The Convair Division of General Dynamics Corporation holds an Air Force contract to develop the airframe for an atomic-powered plane.

The NB-36H's dark blue nose differs sharply from that of a conventional B-36, and the huge vertical tail carries an orange radiation symbol that distinguishes the aircraft from all others.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956

MEDICINE

Use of Cortisone Is Movie Theme

► CORTISONE, one of the modern so-called miracle drugs, was unknown as a "cure" for disease less than a decade ago.

Now the famous hormone chemical that has brought relief to thousands of pain-racked arthritis sufferers is the central theme of a controversial motion picture, "Bigger Than Life" (Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation).

Pharmaceutical firms producing the drug will not like the film because it shows in vivid detail one effect of overdosage with the drug.

Physicians on the whole may not be disturbed because the overdosage was a case of self-medication, the film patient taking on his own more of the drug than was prescribed, despite doctor's warning against this.

Pharmacists are sure to object to the sequence showing the patient tricking an elderly pharmacist at a small drug store into accepting too readily a false prescription and dispensing the drug.

The public, however, is likely to be more impressed by the drama as the patient's mental symptoms grow more and more acute than by the moral of the picture, which is follow the doctor's orders, or by which particular drug is dangerous if misused.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956