



FLYING TV STATION—The cabin in this helicopter is a self-contained airborne television station. An engineer for Philco Corporation, Philadelphia, operates the camera for the TV system developed for the Navy Department's Bureau of Ships. The picture picked up by the camera is being transmitted to a receiving location more than 50 miles distant. Philco has also developed an airborne TV system for use in jet aircraft reconnaissance.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Vaccine Cuts Colds

► FROM HALF to three-fourths of the feverish colds or cold-like illnesses expected to attack recruits in training were prevented by a vaccine tried last winter at the U. S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., a team of civilian and Navy scientists reports in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Aug. 18).

These feverish colds or grippelike ailments are now being called "adenovirus" diseases. (See SNL, Aug. 4, p. 68.)

They are not the same as the common cold, since they are severe enough to send a recruit to hospital and to make civilians take to their beds. They have heretofore gone by such names as AD viruses, APC viruses, RI viruses and ARD viruses or just "the bug."

The adenovirus vaccine tested at the Naval Training Center was for types 3, 4 and 7. It was commercially prepared from live virus inactivated by formaldehyde.

The vaccine was given to 4,000 recruits in a group of 12,000.

Results of the trial show that the "usual interference with military training routine" resulting from the acute feverish respiratory diseases "may be reduced by adenovirus vaccines."

Reporting the trial are Drs. Joseph A. Bell and Robert J. Huebner of the National

Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., where the seed virus for the vaccine was prepared, Capt. M. J. Hantover of the Navy Medical Corps, and Dr. Clayton G. Loosli of the University of Chicago.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

MEDICINE

Oleander Sugar Drug Stops Staph. Germs

► A COMPOUND containing the sugary chemical of the oleander bush has turned out to be good medicine for checking staphylococci, especially when the staph. germs have grown resistant to penicillin and other antibiotics.

The staph. family includes germs found in boils and a particularly dangerous kind of blood poisoning.

The new oleander bush chemical for fighting staph. germs is called oleandomycin. It was developed by Ben A. Sobin, John B. Routien and Thomas M. Lees of Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc., research laboratories, Brooklyn, N. Y.

They have now been granted a U. S. patent for producing oleandomycin by fermentation.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Lockjaw-Like Dog Disease Curable

► A DOG DISEASE that is similar to lockjaw, and for which there is no vaccine, can be treated successfully if the illness is detected and diagnosed in its early stages, the American Veterinary Medical Association in Chicago has reported. The disease is called eosinophilic myositis.

The lockjaw-like symptoms are caused by an inflammation of the muscles used in chewing. The inflammation is accompanied by an increase in eosinophils, a type of white blood cell, in the blood of the victim. These cells infiltrate jaw muscle tissue, causing so much swelling that in the later stages the jaws cannot be forced open.

Veterinarians say they are not familiar with all the factors involved in the disease. According to one theory, eosinophils are attracted by damaged muscle tissues after the muscle-destroying processes have started.

Eosinophilic myositis hits many breeds of dogs, but has been reported most frequently in German Shepherds. It strikes other animals besides dogs, but with less dramatic symptoms.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mission 66 to Bring Public Nearer Wilds

► MISSION 66, the 10-year project to develop United States national parks, will actually increase the wilderness value of the parks even though the project involves extensive construction.

This will be done by removing man-made "eyesores" which infringe on scenic areas, National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth said.

Buildings, roads, concessions and picnic areas now encroach upon numerous "sensitive" areas in our parks, Mr. Wirth asserted. A "sensitive" area is one of unusual natural beauty or interest.

In some cases, camping grounds will be moved outside the parks altogether. Cabins, lodges and stores will be removed from many scenic areas. Private enterprise will be encouraged to set up concessions outside, rather than within, park boundaries.

National Park Service officials estimate that 99% of all visitors confine themselves to one percent of each park's area. Present roads, which park officials say were designed to meet the demands of the stagecoach era, concentrate masses of people in small localities.

"Few persons have ever really seen our parks," Mr. Wirth stated. "We want to get people to go off on some of the trails and into back areas."

Even after Mission 66 has been completed, large regions of the parks will remain inaccessible to vehicles. An estimated two to three percent of the total national park area will contain 99% of all visitors.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956