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**Questions**

**ARCHAEOLOGY**—What is one of the reasons for the fall of the Sumer Government thousands of years ago? p. 84.

**ENGINEERING**—What is a homopolar device? p. 83.

**EVOLUTION**—What is the importance of central fusion of chromosomes? p. 86.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**—What is the only known vegetable source of vitamin B-12? p. 87.

**TECHNOLOGY**—How does the "baby" reactor being offered to colleges differ from the "critical" reactor? p. 90.

Photographs: Cover, Fremont Davis; p. 83, General Electric Company; p. 85, Boeing Airplane Company; p. 87, University of Wisconsin; p. 90, Nuclear-Chicago Corporation; p. 96, W. R. Grace and Company.

## MEDICINE

### "Live" Polio Vaccine Aids In Congo Epidemic Area

►A LIVE VIRUS polio vaccine that can be administered orally by tablespoon is reported to be highly effective, according to preliminary reports.

A total of 244,596 inhabitants of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, including both sexes and all ages, received the "live" vaccination containing the Chat strain type 1 polio virus by oral administration. Of these, 2,511 also received the Fox III strain of type 3 virus. No sickness or side effects were reported after the vaccinations, five doctors report in the *British Medical Journal* (July 26).

It had been estimated previous to vaccination that 12% of the tested population had no antibodies to fight the type 1 virus prior to the vaccination.

When four epidemic outbreaks of poliomyelitis occurred in the Belgian Congo, the World Health Organization recommended the administration of the live Chat type 1 virus. After the vaccination no more cases of paralysis were reported in the four localities involved in the outbreaks, the doctors report.

The vaccine has been administered in capsule form. The liquid can be squirted into the mouth by a pipette, or simply poured into a tablespoon and swallowed as any other liquid medicine.

One of the doctors, Hilary Koprowski, director of the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, previously reported the successful administration of an oral live vaccine to 600 persons in the United States. Dr. Herald R. Cox worked with Dr. Koprowski when he was assistant director of virus and rickettsial research at Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, N. Y., where the vaccine was developed.

In addition to Dr. Koprowski, Drs. G. Courtois, director of Laboratoire Medical, Stanleyville, Belgian Congo, A. Flack, medical director, Clinton Farms, Clinton, N. J., G. A. Jervis, director of laboratories, Letchworth Village, Thiels, N. Y., and G. Ninane, also of Laboratoire Medical at Stanleyville, assisted in this latest vaccination program in Africa.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1958

## Do You Know?

Europe's consumption of petroleum is rising at an annual rate of about six percent, emphasizing the importance of developing new sources of oil in the European area.

*Methionine* is one of the eight essential amino acids needed from daily food intake, forming an essential compound from muscle metabolism.

The world's supply of caviar is being threatened by industrial wastes pouring into the Volga River in Russia.

Above 85 degrees Fahrenheit, tomatoes turn yellow instead of red.