

MEDICINE

# Chemical Treatment Tried For Infantile Paralysis

Drug, Name of Which Is Not Divulged, Gives Animals Degree of Protection and May Have Saved Lives

**A**CHEMICAL which provides a "little lead" in the long search for a drug to cure infantile paralysis has been obtained, but the public must expect "no blitzkrieg" victory over this crippling illness, Dr. Charles Armstrong, U. S. Public Health Service and National Institute of Health, declared at the Fight Infantile Paralysis dinner given in Washington, D. C., in honor of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"A drug has been found which tends to effect a degree of protection and even to save a few animals that otherwise would probably have died," Dr. Armstrong stated, adding that that is "all that can be said today."

The name of the drug cannot be divulged, he said, until the group of scientists who have developed it are ready

to announce it. These are Dr. S. D. Kramer, Dr. G. A. LoGrippe and assistants of Lansing, Mich. They are working under a grant from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

"Chemicals related to this one are now being studied," Dr. Armstrong continued, "and possibly in a year, 10 years, 20 years, or possibly never or possibly tomorrow the sought for magic drug may be found."

The reason why the public should not expect a swift victory over the disease to follow the development of this drug was explained by Dr. Armstrong as follows:

"Think what remarkable properties such a curative drug against infantile paralysis must possess. It must be able to penetrate the central nervous system,

even into the very cells themselves and there stop this tough little enemy and do it without permanently injuring the very delicate nerve cells themselves.

"You will agree, I think, that this is a big order and I take my hat off to these workers who day in and day out infect animals with infantile paralysis and then try to cure them with chemicals, only to see the treated animals usually do worse than the untreated ones."

The chances of finding a cure have been markedly improved, he said, by the discovery, at the National Institute of Health, that an inexpensive rodent, the cotton rat of the South, can be infected with the virus of infantile paralysis and, even better, that after having produced a few generations of disease in this rodent the virus was found to affect the common white mouse.

Because mice are so much cheaper and easier to handle than monkeys, formerly the only animal besides man that got infantile paralysis, scientists can try many more chemicals in their search for a curative one.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

## Exhibit Shows Space Ship As Viewed by Scientists

**W**HAT passengers on a space ship of the future may see is featured in a new exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution, which was opened to the public after the annual meeting of the Institution's board of regents on Jan. 17.

The space ship is shown as heading toward the revolving earth. At the rear of the ship are oxygen bombs, possibly used in propelling the space craft. The pilot has two gas guns handy, as protection against roving space pirates. He is receiving television reports. Before him is an illuminated chart of his course. Outside, the stars are shown in the colors they would have in the depths of outer space.

The Smithsonian Institution has cleared its main hall of all the old exhibits that have been on display there for many years, and has installed a series of modernistic booths, each displaying one phase of its manifold research activities. These range from the solar heaters on which Secretary Charles G. Abbot has been working for many years to a graphic visual summary of the evolution of life on this planet.

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SPACE SHIP

*If you should ever be a passenger in a trip through space in some future day, you might witness such a scene as this portrayed in a new exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution.*