

Do You Know?

The dusky *salamander*, the most common type along streams in the eastern part of the United States, lays from 20 to 40 eggs beneath a stone near a spring and stays with them for two months until they hatch.

Frederick the Great is said to be responsible for promoting *potato culture* in Prussia; a little over two centuries ago he had seed potatoes distributed free and compelled the peasants to cultivate them.

In making *asbestos cloth*, a certain amount of cotton fiber is often used to give a firmer construction; the fireproof asbestos fibers are slippery and do not hold together as well as when a cotton mixture is used.

Gasoline vapor, found in some natural gases, is recovered in tall slender towers called absorbers; in these, oil trickling downward is encountered by the gas-gasoline mixture and the gasoline is thus salvaged.

Dairies have used sound waves, too rapid for the human ear, to homogenize milk; they shake up the milk so violently that the fat globules blend themselves with the water globules in such a way as to be not easily separated.



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paign. When he is inaugurated in January, everybody will be cheering.

Americans like to climb on the band wagon. They also have a way of swinging in the direction of the most popular choice. This is what gives democracy in this coun-

MEDICINE

Greater Hope for TB

➤ GREATER HOPE is now held by medical authorities that tuberculosis of the bones and joints and genitourinary tract will be improved by streptomycin treatment.

In the future, also, there may be fewer undesirable reactions to the drug since it has been found that the daily dosage can be cut in half without affecting the results.

These conclusions were contained in the second annual progress report on the effects of streptomycin treatment in all types of tuberculosis which appeared in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (Oct. 23). Dr. Austin Smith, secretary of the Association's Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, states that the conclusions are based on a study made of 2,780 patients with all types of tuberculosis treated with the drug since June, 1946. The Veterans Administration and the Army and Navy have cooperated in this investigation.

Types of tuberculosis and their response to treatment are as follows:

In 943 patients with tuberculosis of the lungs 77% to 83% showed improvement. Moreover, 75% of the patients who were becoming worse prior to streptomycin treat-

try its stability, psychologists believe. It is what makes it possible for us to go on having hotly contested elections and then, after all the bets are paid off, settling down to business again satisfied with the result.

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ment, improved during treatment, "a reversal in trend which is regarded as especially significant," according to the report. The improvement, however, is partial and only rarely complete and there is a high rate of relapses, Dr. Smith points out.

In 112 patients with involvement of the windpipe and its branches, and 166 patients with tuberculosis of the larynx or voice organ, there was from 80% to 90% improvement. These two types "compose one of the most favorable fields for streptomycin therapy," Dr. Smith states.

In 368 patients with TB-produced open sores and ulcers of the skin, nearly four out of five, or 78% of the sites of infection were healed.

In 192 patients with TB of the bones and joints, 91% showed improvement in that there was a reduction in inflammation, pain and swelling.

In 112 patients with TB of the genitourinary tract, there was an 80% improvement.

Favorable results were also obtained in small numbers of patients with TB of the alimentary tract, TB of the lymph glands, peritonitis, and inflammation of the middle ear.

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MEDICINE

Drug Relieves Gas Pains

➤ ONE of the common distressing after-effects of operations, abdominal distention, or "gas pains," can be prevented or quickly relieved in many patients by a chemical called urecholine.

The good results with this medicine were reported by Dr. Clarence E. Stafford of the College of Medical Evangelists School of Medicine and Drs. Alexander Dederer and Arthur I. Kugel of Los Angeles at the meeting of the American College of Surgeons.

About half of a group of 41 patients had good results from lozenges of the drug put under the tongue three times a day, and another third so treated had only slight or moderate discomfort from distention or cramping. Some of those who got no relief when the drug was given under the tongue were then given a small dose by injection into the skin. This brought relief within about five minutes.

The drug must not be given by injection into the muscles or veins, the doctors cau-

tioned, because then it may cause a drop in blood pressure and collapse. The dose, they also pointed out, should be adjusted for each patient.

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