

INVENTION

Patents of the Week

An effective high blood pressure drug has been patented. Other inventions include a portable magnetic recorder for diagnosing heart disease.

➤ A DRUG that effectively reduces high blood pressure stemming from many different causes has been patented.

A trio of doctors working for the Schering Corporation laboratories in Bloomfield, N. J., won patent No. 2,986,573 for a drug that lessens and helps control hypertension resulting from unknown causes and certain circulatory or vascular diseases. The doctors, who assigned the patent rights to Schering, are John G. Topliss of East Orange, Nathan Sperber of North Caldwell, and Alan A. Rubin of Bloomfield, N. J.

"Preliminary clinical work done with the new drug shows promising results," Dr. Rubin stated. "We think this is a unique drug because it appears to work directly on the arteries which are especially affected by high blood pressure." Less side effects were also observed compared to drugs commonly used today, he emphasized.

The drug with the chemical name of 2-methyl-7-chloro-1, 2, 4-benzothiadiazine-1, 1-dioxide was first tried on dogs and rats in the laboratories. Hypertensive rats were fed small drug dosages daily from four to eight weeks, appreciably reducing and maintaining the lowered blood pressure for the entire experiment.

Similar experiments on humans bore similar results. One hypertensive patient's blood pressure returned to his previous high

"normal" within one week after therapy stopped.

A magnetic recorder that amplifies heart murmurs and sounds, thereby aiding doctors in diagnosing heart diseases, was another medical advance patented. Inventors Ralph H. Kruse of Pelham Manor, Howard N. Fawcett of Briarcliff Manor and James D. Digby of Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y., won patent No. 2,986,606 and assigned rights to Cambridge Instrument Co., Inc., New York.

The portable instrument can be carried to a patient's bedside or easily installed in a doctor's office. The instrument is claimed to replace the not always reliable standard stethoscope and is a convenient substitute for the more elaborate and cumbersome instruments housed at large medical institutions.

The recorder not only tapes the heart sounds but also simultaneously shows the electrocardiographic record on a screen.

Music and certain sounds, which lull a person in a dental chair, supposedly takes the patient's mind from the pain resulting from a dentist drilling. This principle is used in patent No. 2,986,140 awarded to Wallace J. Gardner, Cambridge, and Joseph C. R. Lickliger of Arlington, Mass. Rights were assigned to Bolt Beranek & Newnan, Inc., Cambridge, Mass.

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VITAL STATISTICS

Earlier U. S. Marriages

➤ BRIDES AND BRIDEGROOMS in the United States are younger and closer in age at first marriage than those in any other urban-industrialized country in the world.

Half the U. S. bridegrooms in 1960 were under 22.8 years and half the brides were under 20.3 years. More men married at 21 than at any other age and more women at 18.

Men are now marrying about three years earlier and women two years earlier than at the turn of this century. The 1890 census showed that half the bridegrooms were under 26 and half the brides were under 22.

The U. S. has one of the highest marriage rates among Western industrial nations, the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, D. C., reported.

This nation's pattern of age at first marriage is closer now to the Asian pattern than to the European where bridegrooms and brides are usually about three years older than they are in this country.

Canada comes closer to the U. S. pattern

than any other Western country, the median age being 24.8 for grooms and 21.7 for brides. Ireland has the oldest brides and grooms, the men averaging 31.4 years of age and the women 26.5.

In India the marriage partners are youngest, 20.0 years for grooms and 14.5 years for brides.


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Questions

MEDICINE—How many women die each year of cervical cancer? p. 370.

MILITARY SCIENCES—How many days may pass between exposure and illness in biological warfare disease casualties? p. 374.


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