

PUBLIC HEALTH

If Allergic to Insects, Use Emergency Rules

► **PHYSICIANS** have been advised to furnish emergency kits with directions for use to all patients who are allergic to insects.

Sudden death is a real threat to persons who are stung again after once being sensitized to the protein substances of insects, Dr. Joseph H. Shaffer of Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, states in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 177:473, 1961.

Generally accepted rules for avoiding insect stings in summer are:

Do not use hair oils and perfumes that attract stinging creatures by the odor.

Do not wear suede or other leather materials that have irritating animal smells.

Do wear white or light-colored clothes, which are less provoking than dark colors.

If faced with a stinging insect, do not panic and swing wildly at it. Walk away slowly.

Desensitization over a long period is advised for all who have experienced severe local or generalized allergic reactions from previous stings, Dr. Shaffer says.

The desensitization treatment consists of injections of whole body extracts of the wasp, hornet, bee and yellow jacket given at seven-day intervals at the start and tapering off to every four weeks over a three-year period.

• Science News Letter, 80:183 September 9, 1961

ICHTHYOLOGY

Greenland Sharks Lure Fish Food by Their Eyes

► A **SLUGGISH SHARK** probably captures its quick prey by using its eyes as a lure.

Tiny whitish shell animals attached to the eyes of the Greenland shark seem to act like a beacon attracting curious fish. The slow Greenland shark swallows them when they swim too close.

Intact remains of the quick sea trout, arctic char, in the shark's stomach strongly supports the idea, Dr. Bjorn Berland of the Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway, reports. Greenland fishermen believe the attached animals are luminous but no definite proof exists, he reports in Nature, 191:829, 1961.

• Science News Letter, 80:183 September 9, 1961

Questions

BIOLOGY—At what temperature could sperm in a sperm bank be stored? p. 163.

TECHNOLOGY—How could atomic blasts benefit mining? p. 165.

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