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MEDICINE

Doctors Are Reading—

Thyroid Cancer Cause

► **X-RAY TREATMENT** for benign disorders of the head and neck area has been blamed for later development of thyroid cancer in 17 children under 15 years of age, physicians will be reading in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 181:1034, 1962.

Two of the patients had received unusual forms of radiation therapy—radon implantation in the nose for sinusitis in one, and radium for allergic rhinitis in another—but X-rays were used to treat such diseases as tonsillitis, pneumonia and ear troubles. Drs. Ronald H. Nishiyama, Robert W. Schmidt and John G. Batsakis of the University of Michigan department of pathology reported the study, which included 36 young patients over a 30-year period.

African Jaw Tumors

Malignant jaw tumors common among young children in equatorial Africa may be a type of leukemia (cancer of the blood), Dr. Gilbert Dalldorf of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research reported.

Causes of the unusual form of the disease in Africa include possible mosquito-borne infections, intensity of solar radiation, prevalence of other disease, particularly malaria, and possibly rodents. The American and African forms of the malignancy are treated similarly with radiation and drugs, but both are usually fatal (p. 1026).

High Blood Pressure Drug

Forty women with a mild form of high blood pressure have responded to a comparatively new drug called mebutamate, Drs. A. C. Corcoran and Hubert F. Loyke of St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Cleveland, reported. Mebutamate is a derivative of the tranquilizer, meprobamate, and it has a calming action on control centers in the brain and spinal cord (p. 1043).

Questions

GENERAL SCIENCE—What per cent of the world's total electrical power does the United States use? p. 222.

MEDICINE—What does the success of implants of parts of the circulatory system depend upon? p. 225.

PHYSICS—When did the first atomic-powered weather station in Antarctica begin operation? p. 218.

PSYCHOLOGY—What are some of the causes of hostile behavior in children? p. 226.

TECHNOLOGY—Of what material is the solid-state gyroscope constructed? p. 219.

Photographs: Cover, Piasecki Aircraft Corporation; p. 218, Lockheed Missiles and Space Company; p. 219, Westinghouse; p. 221, Science Service; p. 223, Department of the Army; p. 226, National Institutes of Health; p. 232 (top), Blonder-Tongue Laboratories, Inc.; p. 232 (bottom), U. S. Forest Service.

Farm Pond Fever

Nine Florida children who waded in a dammed pool in a cow pasture developed a fever caused by *Leptospira pomona*, an organism found in local cows and pigs, Dr. Wilmer J. Coggins of Madison, Fla., reported (p. 1077).

Former Mental Patients

Employers were advised to rehire most former workers who have recovered from mental illness in a joint statement by AMA's Council on Occupational Health and Council on Mental Health. Whenever possible, follow-up treatment by a psychiatrist is desirable. Twelve factors are discussed as a guide for evaluating employability in such cases (p. 1086).

Few Negroes Break Hips

Only 11 Negroes were among 443 cases of hip fractures treated in a Brooklyn hospital, Drs. Michael Gyepes, Harry Z. Mellins, and Isadore Katz of the Downstate Medical Center, State University of New York, said. Similar studies in other hospitals are suggested with a view to understanding and preventing such fractures (p. 1073).

• Science News Letter, 82:230 October 6, 1962

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Live Vaccine Found for Fowl Plague Disease

► **FOWL PLAGUE**, a disease that wipes out flocks of domestic birds such as chickens and ducks, has a powerful new enemy in an extract from chick and pigeon embryos.

Caused by a virus, avian or fowl plague strikes hardest in India and Middle East countries and Europe. The United States was badly affected in 1924 and 1929, when domestic fowl fell by the thousands from the deadly disease. No epidemic has been reported since then in the United States.

The new extract, reported by Dr. George Is-Hak Mickail of the Serum and Vaccine Institute in Abbassia, Cairo, in *Nature*, 195:1231, 1962, was used to immunize about 15,000 fowls in the past decade. Deaths attributed to the disease in immunized fowl ranged from one-half to nearly two per cent.

Active immunity starts in 48 hours and becomes complete in two weeks, covering 80 per cent to 98 per cent of the vaccinated birds. It persists for 16 months for nearly 60 per cent of the fowl, and might be prolonged for the lifetime in some of them.

The new vaccine has remarkable advantages over oil-base inactivated vaccines. Not only is immunity longer and stronger but the vaccine is easy to prepare, preserve and apply. It can be issued to remote areas without losing potency or effectiveness. Its cost is lower than that of inactivated vaccine.

• Science News Letter, 82:230 October 6, 1962