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BAUSCH & LOMB

BIOCHEMISTRY

Drug Affects Neurotic Animals Specifically

► THE FIRST MENTAL DRUG to be found that relieves depression in neurotic animals but has no effect on healthy ones was reported in Atlantic City, N.J., to the American Chemical Society meeting.

Standard tranquilizers and antidepressants such as reserpine, chlorpromazine and imipramine affected healthy dogs used as controls in the same way that they affected the neurotic animals, Dr. Allan P. Gray of Neisler Laboratories, Decatur, Ill., noted. But not so the new drug, which has the shorthand name Cyprolidol. Chemically the drug is trans-2(4-pyridyl)- α,α -diphenylpropanemethanol.

The researchers at Neisler picked out their experimental neurotic dogs from a stock of 1,000 animals. Very vicious or overly withdrawn animals were considered abnormal and treated with Cyprolidol. The drug appeared to be more beneficial to the withdrawn animals, and therefore was classed as an antidepressant, Dr. Gray said.

Clinical studies will determine how effective the new drug is for neurotic humans. The fact that Cyprolidol affects depressed but not healthy animals apparently depends on the three-dimensional geometry of its molecules, Dr. Gray said. He is director of chemical research at Neisler, which is a subsidiary of the Union Carbide Corporation. Assisting him in the research was Harold Kraus, a senior chemist at the laboratories.

• Science News Letter, 88:194 September 25, 1965

MEDICINE

Breast Cancer Reported In Girls 14 and 17

► ALTHOUGH CANCER of the breast in persons under the age of 20 is considered a medical curiosity, doctors are warned to have any unusual masses in either boys or girls examined under the microscope.

Two young girls, aged 14 and 17, have been added to the nine cases already reported in medical literature. Both girls died, one within nine months, the other in less than five years after surgery.

Drs. Myron B. Close and Nicholas G. Maximov of Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, Santa Rosa, Calif., reported the cases in Archives of Surgery 91:386, 1965, and reviewed some of the previous cases.

A six-year-old boy with breast cancer had an operation and was found to have a spreading cancer in the lymph nodes of the arm. He was living 10 months after the operation, however, with no sign of further metastasis.

Two New York cases were those of a child three years old, and another, aged 15. The 15-year-old girl was unique in that she had had the cancer for 10 years and survived with no more treatment than local surgery.

A family tendency to the disease apparently has resulted in its development at such early ages, but further study is needed to explain all the cases.

The Santa Rosa surgeons warn that a breast mass in a child should not be left for observation over a period of time, despite the rarity of breast cancer in this age group.

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