

are unavoidable in manufacturing the new terrible weapon."

"Every man of science who has helped in the work to lay the foundations of the new development is ready to help in every way he sees clear to find a solution of humanity's present crisis, which will be worthy of the ideals for which science has struggled through the ages."

The Atoms for Peace Award grew out of an appeal from President Eisenhower made on July 20, 1955, at Geneva, Switzerland. It was created as a memorial to Henry and Edsel Ford. One million dollars, provided by the Ford Motor Company Fund, was authorized to be used at a rate of \$100,000 a year for ten years. This, the first year, brought 75 candidates proposed by scientific bodies in 23 countries.

Science News Letter, October 19, 1957

TECHNOLOGY

**Ultraviolet Lamp Kills Flu Bug at Home**

➤ AN ULTRAVIOLET lamp that can be inserted in a heating or air conditioning duct and kills 80% of airborne virus and bacteria in the home has been designed and manufactured.

The lamp is particularly good for killing the flu virus and has been designed for use in homes, schools and offices, Edward G. F. Arnott, director of research for the Westinghouse lamp division, Bloomfield, N. J., has reported.

Similar type ultraviolet lamps are being used by manufacturers of polio and Asian flu vaccines to kill the active virus before making it into a vaccine.

The new type of Sterilamp produces radiation that is up to 1,000 times more effective in killing microorganisms than an equal amount of ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Similar lamps have been used for many years in operating rooms to prevent infections during operations.

The Sterilamp tube can be installed in most homes in a few minutes and will be optional equipment with some furnaces and air conditioners next year.

Science News Letter, October 19, 1957

PUBLIC HEALTH

**Too Much Tranquilizer Can Cause Convulsions**

➤ LARGE DOSES of chlorpromazine, the widely used tranquilizing drug, can produce convulsions in monkeys and may do the same thing to humans.

This latest finding is reported by scientists at the U. S. Public Health Service hospital, Lexington, Ky., who warn the drug may be hazardous in the treatment of either alcoholism or epilepsy.

A number of reports have appeared suggesting the tranquilizer may have convulsant effects so it was given in large doses to four "normal" monkeys, they report.

All the monkeys developed epileptic-like seizures and three of them apparently began seeing things that did not exist.

One kept searching the floor of his cave

as if he were looking for an imaginary object, and occasionally leaped backward as if afraid of something.

The amount of the drug given was admittedly large, but the same dosage had been reported in use on humans in one clinic, the scientists say.

On lower doses, no convulsions were seen, indicating that the greater the dose of chlorpromazine, the greater is the likelihood of seizures.

The current widespread use of the tranquilizer "warrants speculation" about its use in either epilepsy or the management of addict withdrawals from alcohol and barbiturates, the scientists conclude.

The study was made by Drs. Carl F. Essig and Woodrow W. Carter of the hospital's NIMH Addiction Research Center and is reported in the *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine* (Aug.-Sept.).

Science News Letter, October 19, 1957

ICHTHYOLOGY

**Polluted Rivers May Be Too Hot for Fish**

➤ EARLIER estimates of how hot the water in a river has to be before its fish population disappears might have to be revised, a British scientist reports.

The present limits for the temperature of polluted rivers may be too high, says A. W. Cocking, Portsmouth.

In an experiment described in *Nature* (Sept. 28), he finds that roach, a fresh water fish of the carp family, "lose condition" while some individuals die, after prolonged exposure to temperatures as much as seven degrees below the supposed maximum lethal temperature (now put at about 92 degrees Fahrenheit).

The scientist points out that there is also little relation between the temperature range necessary for good growth and reproduction and a temperature hot enough to kill. A species will eventually disappear from a waterway if the temperature is too high for it to reproduce, even though adult fish are not killed.

Science News Letter, October 19, 1957



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