

MEDICINE

Doctors Are Reading—

► ANOTHER STEP toward the day when the common cold will be conquered was made by the identification of another cold-causing virus.

The cold virus, coryzavirus, was found in 14% of 141 volunteers suffering from colds in Rahway, N. J. The study involved more than 200 industrial workers, physicians will be reading in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 180:445, 1962.

Enough knowledge is now available on viruses that cause colds and respiratory disease to develop vaccines to protect adults and children, a team of scientists said. Co-operating in the study were Drs. Maurice R. Hilleman, Vincent V. Hamparian and Albert Ketler of the Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research, West Point, Pa.; Drs. Charles M. Reilly, Laurella McClelland, Joseph Stokes, Jr., of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; and Dr. David Cornfeld of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Dr. Stokes is also with University School of Medicine, Dr. McClelland with Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories.

With the identification of coryzaviruses, the scientists now believe that these, along with rhinoviruses and Eaton agent, appear to be the most important causes of respiratory illness among adults.

In the New Jersey study, coryzavirus was found in 20 persons with cold symptoms but was absent in 49 workers without colds. The virus was the most prevalent in the adult study, designed to determine the relative importance of 11 different viruses or virus families.

Freezing Heals Ulcers

Stomach freezing for short periods is proving effective in healing duodenal ulcers, a group of University of Minnesota researchers stated in another report in the AMA Journal (p. 440).

The freezing inhibits the stomach's secretion of digestive juices whose "corrosive action" is a cause of the damaging and painful gastric ulceration. The treatment is "well-tolerated by dog and man" and is "extremely simple," according to the medical research team.

A balloon is passed into the patient's stomach and a mixture of alcohol and ice water is passed through the balloon in an even flow by means of tubes until the temperature of the stomach is reduced to below zero temperatures. The stomach is kept frozen for about an hour.

"An hour or two after termination of gastric freezing, the patient will almost invariably eat with relish," the authors reported. Their only dietary restriction following treatment is limited to alcoholic and caffeine beverages.

X-ray evidence of healing of duodenal ulcer craters appeared in 24 patients after the freezing therapy. The researchers do not recommend this therapy for patients

with other stomach ulcers or with duodenal ulcer complications.

The research team included: Drs. Owen H. Wangenstein, Edward T. Peter, Demetre M. Nicoloff, Arnold I. Walder, Henry Sosin and Eugene F. Bernstein of the department of surgery of the University's School of Medicine, Minneapolis.

• Science News Letter, 81:335 May 26, 1962

ASTRONOMY

Soviet Union Plans Largest Telescope

► THE RUSSIANS are planning to build soon the largest telescope in the world.

The telescope will be set up on one of the summits of the Northern Caucasus, surrounded by other equipment in a proposed institute of theoretical astronomy, Dr. L. Artsimovich of the USSR Academy of Sciences reported in a translation by the U.S. Joint Publications Research Service.

The goal of the new institute will be the use of satellites and space ships for research and the development of new equipment for these space vehicles.

• Science News Letter, 81:335 May 26, 1962

MICROBIOLOGY

Fungi-Bacteria Link Overlooked in Soil

► A GROUP OF ORGANISMS accidentally discovered in the soil may link fungi and bacteria, a botany professor from the University of North Carolina believes.

The new organisms, *Actinoplanes*, have been found in hundreds of soil samples from all over the world since they were first isolated, Prof. John N. Couch explained. But they were surprisingly overlooked by other soil scientists for many years.

Actinoplanes are similar to the bacteria *Actinomyces*, source of the antibiotic Actinomycin, yet have swimming spores for reproduction which may relate them to the true fungi, Prof. Couch said. The potential antibiotic organism is being tested by a commercial firm for the university, the scientist reported in an issue of the University Report.

• Science News Letter, 81:335 May 26, 1962

Questions

ASTRONOMY—What is the most acceptable theory of the origin of the sun's system? p. 323.

GENERAL SCIENCE—How many states were represented at the National Science Fair-International this year? p. 334.

GENETICS—What genetic effects were observed in fruit flies orbited in Soviet space-ships? p. 326.

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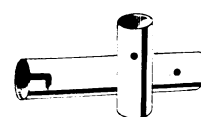
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