

MEDICINE

Relief for Angina Pectoris, "Most Painful" Disease

Chloroform-Like Drug Inhaled As Routine Treatment Makes Attacks Less Frequent and Reduces Pain

QUICK relief for the world's most painful and most rapidly increasing disease, angina pectoris, has been achieved by the simple inhalation of the chloroform-like drug called trichlorethylene, Dr. John C. Krantz, Jr., of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, reported to the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Patients with the fear of death upon them, dreading the next seemingly inevitable attack of the excruciating heart pain that is said to be worse than childbirth or gallstones, get relief in a second from inhalation when the attacks occur.

As a routine treatment night and morning, crushing an ampule in a handkerchief makes attacks less frequent by a half or third. Clinical tests made by Dr. William Love, Jr., Baltimore physician, were successful in 15 out of 20 cases.

An extract of the pancreas from which insulin has been removed is also effective in the medical fight on angina, Dr. James C. Munch, Philadelphia pharmacologist, made known at the A.A.A.S. meeting. Tested on some 500 patients at New York, Santa Barbara, Mayo Clinic and Philadelphia, it brought seemingly permanent relief from angina attacks in 85 per cent. of the cases.

Some patients needed no more treatment after daily injections for two weeks, others needed weekly treatments for several months thereafter before relief came.

From Diabetes Treatment

Discovery of the usefulness of the pancreas hormone in angina came as a byproduct of the insulin treatment of diabetes. Some patients with both angina and diabetes had both diseases mitigated by the relatively crude insulin of the early days.

As insulin was refined to greater and greater perfection, it became less effective in angina. The scientists therefore looked in the impurities for the substance benefiting angina conditions, and

the pancreas extract now being used resulted.

Dr. Munch estimates that angina pectoris, predominantly a "busy man's disease," magnified by increasing life expectancy, has about sextupled in frequency in the past 20 years.

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ASTRONOMY

Rare Meteor Spectrum Obtained by Astronomer

THE FIRST photograph of the spectrum of a meteor of the Leonid shower to show all the light visible to the naked eye, as well as some of the short ultraviolet waves, was obtained at the David Dunlap Observatory of the University of Toronto. The photograph was made by Dr. P. M. Millman, of the observatory staff, at the time of the shower in November. These are meteors, or "shooting stars," that seem to radiate from the constellation of Leo, in which direction their parallel paths seem to converge, like the tracks of a railroad.

Blue in Color

According to Dr. Millman, "the Meteor appeared at 1:48 a. m., on November 18, and was almost as bright as the planet Venus. It was blue in color, and burst at the end of its path, leaving a train visible for 14 seconds." The photograph was obtained with a small camera, over the lens of which had been placed a prism. Thus, instead of a direct photograph of the meteor, the image was spread out into a spectrum. From such spectra it is possible to tell much about the meteor's constitution.

"The spectrum is of type X," explained Dr. Millman. "That is, it shows very little other than the lines of iron, and is the first Leonid spectrum of this kind to be photographed." The importance of this observation is indicated by the fact that only on 38 previous occasions have meteor spectra been photographed.

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RARE SPECTRUM

Unusual photograph of the spectrum of a Leonid meteor, showing all the light visible to the naked eye, as well as some of the short ultraviolet waves. The photograph was taken by Dr. Peter M. Millman, at the University of Toronto's Dunlap Observatory.

CHEMISTRY

Synthetic Production of Musk and Civet Achieved

PRACTICAL synthesis of the organic chemical compounds in musk and civet that give choice perfumes their odor was reported by Dr. Wallace H. Carothers, du Pont chemist, to the National Symposium of Organic Chemistry.

Chemists are about to manufacture in the laboratory pure essences such as that of "muscone," which if made from the rare musk deer would cost \$40,000 a pound.

A new field of chemistry is opened by the researches of Dr. Carothers and his collaborators, Julian W. Hill and E. W. Spanagel, who have developed a theory and method of control of synthesis of what chemists call "large ring" compounds of high molecular weight.

These large rings of chemical molecules may also prove of use in medicine, as the Chinese use musk in medicine and investigations may demonstrate scientific medical uses.

Based upon the 1926 discovery of the Swiss chemist Ruzicka that the essential principles of musk and civet are