scourge of the white troops, was kept at a minimum, with the number of deaths "infinitely lower than expected," by quinine. Each soldier was given 3 tablets a day and took them, example of the officers being the chief coercive measure.

Dysentery, the "blood flux" which generals used to fear more than the enemy, did not take a single life and affected only 453 men, whereas at least 80,000 to 100,000 might have been expected. The preventive measures against this disease were three-fold: 1. Every effort was made to give the officers and men pure drinking water; 2. The men were encouraged to wash or disinfect their hands with lysol, especially before meals, and cooks and others working in the kitchen were required to use this disinfectant; 3. The "grandmotherly precaution" of wearing a flannel abdominal belt was enforced on every soldier, to prevent abdominal chilling which might predispose to dysentery.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1937

MEDICINE

Attack on Cancer Under Way; Now Trying to Make Vaccine

Proteins Combined With Coal Tar Derivatives Tried In Efforts to Produce Antibodies in Animals

EFFORTS to fight cancer by vaccination are under way at the Banting Institute, Toronto, Drs. W. R. Franks and H. J. Creech of the Institute reported at the meeting of the Royal Society of Canada.

The work is still in the experimental stage. Protection of humans has not been tried and will not be until results of animal tests now under way show whether or not the material made in the Banting laboratories is a cancer vaccine.

"We have no evidence that we have succeeded in producing a vaccine to protect against cancer," Dr. Franks stated in reply to inquiry by Science Service.

Used on Guinea Pigs

Various proteins, the class of chemicals to which egg white belongs, have been combined with cancer-producing chemicals such as certain anthracene or coal tar derivatives, Drs. Franks and Creech reported at the meeting. This material was injected into rabbits, guinea pigs and rats. After the injections, the blood of these animals contained substances called antibodies which united with cancer-producing chemicals and it is hoped will check their power to cause cancer.

"We do not yet know," Dr. Franks told Science Service, "whether the union between the antibody produced in animals and the cancer-producing chemicals checks the power of the latter to cause cancer."

The next step, now under way, is to determine this by injecting the material into animals and then observing whether they are protected against development of cancer experimentally produced by various known methods.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1937

PUBLIC HEALTH

Rabies Found to Occur At Any Season of Year

THE CRY of "Mad Dog!" will soon be heard over the land. Not that dogs go mad, or suffer from rabies, any oftener during the dog days of midsummer than at any other season. But from April to September dog bites are more frequent because at this season more dogs are running loose.

Rabies gets its other name of hydrophobia from the fact that at the height of the disease swallowing is so difficult the afflicted person or dog will refuse even water. The choking, huskiness and shortness of breath are due to spasms of the muscles of swallowing and breathing. In the later stages, the spasms and convulsions may affect the whole body. Death occurs from paralysis of the breathing muscles.

This truly horrible disease is caused by a virus, one of those ultramicroscopic substances which latest scientific discoveries show may be chemicals rather than living organisms. When a rabid dog or other animal bites, he passes the virus to his victim through the saliva.

LIVING ON A HAT

The sprightly cluster of silver-green leaves with which this young lady's hat is trimmed is a real living plant. It is one of the numerous kinds of air plants (bromeliads, to botanists) that grow on the limbs of trees along the Gulf Coast and in peninsular Florida. They are first cousins to Spanish moss and second cousins to pineapples. All they need is a little water occasionally in the tiny cup-like cavities at the leaf-bases, mineral nutrients that come in stray dust, and plenty of free air. And they'd just as lief ride on a pretty girl's hat as roost on a tree—perhaps rather, who knows?