

reactions and were for a time much worse.

The uric acid content of their blood rose, and this discovery led Dr. Vorhaus to continue the vitamin treatment in order to learn why the vitamin produced this effect. It turned out that all the patients had gout along with their neuritis, though the gout had not been suspected until its symptoms became acute after the vitamin dosage.

With more vitamin dosage, the patients improved greatly, and the uric acid content of the blood dropped back to normal. Not only gout of the big toe, but similar symptoms in other joints such as hands, feet, the spine, and the sacro-iliac were improved by the vitamin treatment.

Three-fourths of all persons suffering from early chronic arthritis—rheumatism to you—have symptoms in the feet, Dr. John G. Kuhns of Boston reported. The only way to prevent disability of these feet, Dr. Kuhns said, is to avoid putting weight on them until the pain and swelling caused by the disease subside. A plaster cast to hold the foot in a normal position at first, and then exercises to strengthen muscles and wide shoes with low, broad heels and firm thick soles were advised.

Arthritis Fads Denounced

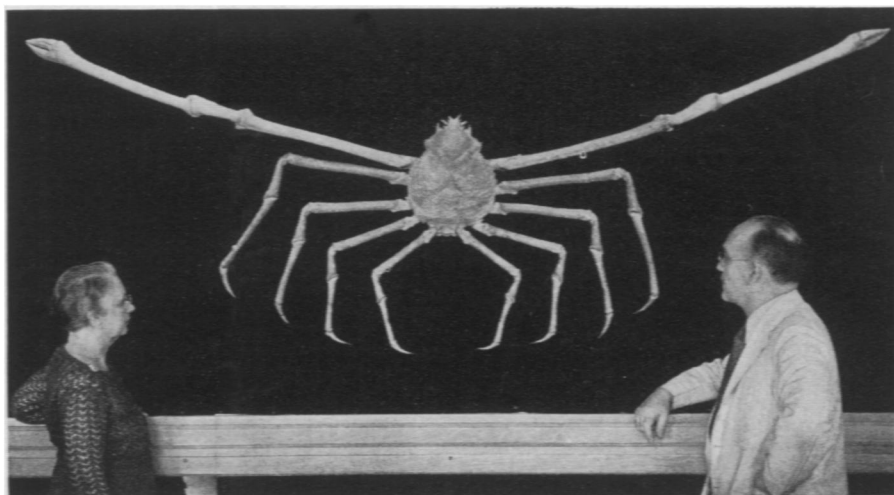
A denunciation of vaccines, sera, weird diets and all manner of gland therapy in treating hypertrophic arthritis was made by Dr. Walter Bauer of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School to the American College of Physicians.

No justification for such treatment exists, Dr. Bauer concludes from studies made by himself and Dr. Granville A. Bennett, because there is no evidence that the condition is caused by infection, gland disorders or disturbed chemistry.

The patients "should be told the exact nature of their disease and assured that they will not become cripples. Their treatment," Dr. Bauer stated, "should consist of all measures which will protect the joints from further damage."

Calling this condition arthritis is just as wrong as calling it rheumatism, it appears from Dr. Bauer's report. The condition is not, as the name would imply, an inflammation due to infection.

"Degenerative joint disease" is the name Dr. Bauer said describes the condition correctly. His studies show that the joint changes are degenerative and that they are found in practically all people past 50 years of age. They do not always produce symptoms.



ELEVEN-FOOT SPREAD

Regular gorilla among crabs is this giant crustacean from Japan, now on display at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Its claws have an eleven-foot reach, and its body is bigger than a man's head.

MARINE BIOLOGY

Giant Crab on Display At Buffalo Museum

BIGGEST of all its crustacean kin is the giant crab of Japan, a specimen of which has just been placed on display at the Buffalo Museum of Science. With its eight spine-hooked legs and the eleven-foot reach of its claws, it is an awesome sight.

Actually, about the only persons who ever get to see these huge crabs alive are the Japanese fishermen, who value them for both meat and carapace or shell. The shells they paint with fantastic faces and hang them up on their houses to frighten away evil spirits.

For all its formidable appearance, the giant crab is both retiring and inoffensive. It lives in deep water (the Buffalo Museum specimen was caught half a mile below surface) and it seeks further concealment by planting bits of living sponge, coral, and other sessile animal forms on its back. Despite this camouflage, however, it is found and devoured by predacious fish and octopuses.

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Explaining how these changes come about, Dr. Bauer said:

"Experimental studies have shown that the gristle or articular cartilage covering the ends of all bones is different from other body tissues. It has a very poor blood supply and, in consequence, a very limited source of nourishment. Because of these existing deficiencies, articular cartilage differs from other body tissues in that it has a very limited ability to repair itself once it is incised or injured. Other body tissues when injured repair themselves completely in a very short period of time, whereas, in the case of articular cartilage, the marks of previous injury may be discernible for years.

"Because of this limited ability to repair itself, articular cartilage is unable to repair the minor injuries and traumata resulting from the wear and tear of daily use. Such minor injuries are additive and over a period of years result in marked thinning or complete loss of the cartilage and a protective overgrowth at the margins. Such changes are the characteristic changes of so-called hypertrophic arthritis."

Science News Letter, July 3, 1937

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