



## FOR PRAYER

*Devout Egyptians, it is believed, would whisper their pleas to such a carved ear held in their hands and then would bury it beside the god's temple. By magic transference, the god's own ear would hear and he would answer.*

velopment in Egypt. Now, they think it may have started even before Chephren's day.

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*Science News Letter, June 17, 1939*

## PUBLIC HEALTH

## Federal Health Officials See No Danger of Smallpox

**N**O DANGER of a general spread of smallpox throughout the nation from the outbreaks in New York and Tennessee is foreseen by officials of the U. S. Public Health Service.

At the same time, they advise widespread vaccination against the disease.

Everyone who has not been vaccinated is susceptible to smallpox. Babies should be vaccinated before they are one year old, and children should be revaccinated before entering school. The immunity conferred by vaccination may last as long as 20 years, but often wears off in about five years. To be absolutely safe, therefore, one should be revaccinated every five years.

Each week throughout the nation more than double the number the New York and Tennessee outbreak cases occur, despite the fact that smallpox is the one disease for which medicine has a very

sure preventive, vaccination. This is due to the fact that everyone does not get vaccinated.

As a matter of fact, health authorities are much more concerned over this continual week-after-week prevalence of smallpox than they are over any one or two specific outbreaks.

As a result of vaccination laxity, the United States stands third among leading nations in number of smallpox cases and deaths, being outstripped in this unenviable situation only by India and Mexico.

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## MEDICINE

## New Smallpox Vaccine Announced By Rockefeller

**O**N the heels of news of smallpox outbreaks in New York and Tennessee comes an announcement to scientists of a new smallpox vaccine which eliminates the severe scars and other inconvenient features of ordinary vaccination.

The new vaccine was developed by Drs. Thomas M. Rivers and R. D. Baird and S. M. Ward of the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. It is made by growing vaccine virus on a special medium consisting of minced chick embryo tissue and Ty-

rode's solution. Vaccinations against smallpox ordinarily are made with calf lymph vaccine virus.

Vaccination with the new vaccine virus should be followed, within six months to one year, by revaccination with calf lymph virus, the Rockefeller scientists advise in their report to the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*.

"In this way," they state, "vaccinated individuals will not become sick and will not be subjected to the dangers associated with primary vaccination with calf lymph virus, but will obtain a solid and lasting immunity to smallpox."

No scar forms after the primary vaccination with the new vaccine virus, it is reported, if the inoculation is properly made. Nor is there any fever and discomfort. Following revaccination later with calf lymph virus, very few of the children had fever or other symptoms, and what scars occurred were only "small superficial" ones.

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## MEDICINE

## Smallpox Outbreak Gives New Chemical Remedy Trial

**S**MALLPOX patients in New York are being treated with the new chemical remedy, sulfanilamide, it is learned from Dr. Edward S. Godfrey, State Health Commissioner.

The outbreak in Onondaga County Penitentiary is thus giving physicians a chance to learn whether this chemical remedy, which has saved lives threatened by childbed fever, erysipelas, pneumonia and many other ailments, will prove equally valuable in treating cases of the serious and disfiguring plague of smallpox.

Sulfanilamide hastened recovery and prevented scarring in four cases of smallpox, Dr. Walter O. McCammon, of Springfield, Ky., reported recently to the American Medical Association. This is a small number on which to base conclusions so medical scientists will doubtless welcome reports of other patients treated with the remedy in New York.

At present it is impossible, Dr. Godfrey says, to state the results of sulfanilamide treatment in the epidemic.

Vaccination for protection against smallpox is urged by health authorities.

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The British flag flies over about four million square miles of the Western Hemisphere.