

growths was practically as great when alcohol alone was used.

The typical dose was a few drops (one-fiftieth of a cubic centimeter) of the 95% alcohol injected directly into the abdominal cavity. Weaker solutions, such as 19% alcohol, had no noticeable effect.

MEDICINE

Urge Examination of Hip

► EVERY baby should have its hip joints examined before the age of six months, Dr. Vernon L. Hart of Minneapolis declared at the meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons in Chicago.

Prevention of life-long deformity due to a dislocated hip is the reason he urges this examination.

"The only hope for cure of these patients, suffering from congenital dislocation of the hip, is early recognition and treatment during the age period of infancy before the infants begin walking," Dr. Hart said in his paper.

Three signs that may mean the baby's hip is dislocated are: 1. Extra skin folds of the thigh; 2. shortening of the distance from the pelvis to the knee; 3. limitation of the hip in spreading apart the knees when the hip is flexed.

If any one of these signs is present, the doctor should have an X-ray study made.

The normal socket of the hip joint, Dr. Hart explained, is "deep like a cup and provides a buttress and good stability for the head of the femur or thigh bone. If the socket develops abnormally and becomes flat and saucer-like instead of a deep cavity, then the buttress for the head of the femur is absent and displacement of the head of the femur from the socket may result. The displacement may be complete or incomplete.

"Complete displacement or dislocation may occur during intrauterine development (before birth); but more often the displacement remains incomplete, or a subluxation, until the infant is about

There is just one drawback, so far as possible applicability in human medicine is concerned—a high percentage of the treated mice died.

Technical presentation of the experimental results is given in *Science*, (Jan. 30).

Science News Letter, February 14, 1948

six months of age or until the time the child begins walking or weight bearing. Dislocation of the hip joint is always painless and the child begins walking about the usual time or a month or two later. At first the limp is very slight and is not recognized usually until some months later, when the dislocation has increased.

"Before walking begins the only malformation is the flat socket and the displacement which is a consequence of the shallow and flat socket. After walking begins many other changes take place in the bone and cartilage of the pelvis, socket, head, neck and shaft of the femur as well as changes in muscles, tendons, capsule and ligaments. These secondary changes develop very rapidly during the first several years of life and after a short time become a very serious obstacle to the treatment of the flat socket and dislocation or subluxation. After the age of about seven or eight years of life, the secondary changes are so serious and fixed and permanent that treatment for the dislocation becomes a very difficult problem.

"The hip joint displacement which is incomplete and which is called congenital subluxation of the hip may cause no limp, pain or disability until the patient reaches the age period of middle adult life—near 40 years of age. Disability is eventually caused by irritation over the years of a weight-bearing joint which was not entirely normal from the time of birth."

Science News Letter, February 14, 1948

CHEMISTRY

Find New Types of Gold

► MOST Californians are celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of gold which led to the famous gold rush. But a scientist at the University of California announced that he, too, has discovered gold—at least two new varieties of the element gold plus

one new type of platinum.

The new discoveries of precious metals will not set off a new gold rush. They were made with the atom-smashing 60-inch Crocker Laboratory cyclotron at the University. Chemical separations of bombarded metal targets in the atom-

smasher revealed new radioactive forms of the precious metals, Geoffrey Wilkinson reported in the *Physical Review*, (Feb. 1).

New varieties of gold are 39.5-hour gold and 4.7-hour gold. These forms of the valuable element give off radiation. The time figures are known as their half-lives, the period of time in which they lose half of their radioactivity. Another new precious metal is 3.0-day platinum.

The scientist also described new studies with other forms of the two precious metals, including 190-day gold, 15.8-hour gold, approximately-one-day gold and 4.33 day platinum.

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