

volunteers, living side by side under identical conditions, with germs of the St. Elizabeth vivax malaria strain. These were isolated in the United States.

The St. Elizabeth strain caused a first attack within a few weeks after the volunteers were bitten by infected mosquitoes. But the relapse did not come

until six to 12 months later. The Chesson strain caused relapses one right after the other.

The doctors do not think the Chesson strain will adapt to our temperate-zone climate and abandon its tropical habit of developing rapidly in the body.

*Science News Letter, May 15, 1948*

MEDICINE

## High Blood Pressure Aids

**Adding salt to the food and injecting an anti-blood clotting chemical in patients with this kind of disease appears to bring improvement.**

➤ MORE salt in the diet and an anti-blood clotting chemical are two new weapons for fighting high blood pressure. They were discussed at the meeting of the American Foundation for High Blood Pressure in Cleveland.

More salt in their food is the pleasant prospect for patients with the kind of high blood pressure doctors call malignant hypertension and kidney disease. The present trend of restricting salt rigidly in such cases has gone too far, in the opinion of Dr. Francis D. Murphy of Marquette University School of Medicine. He reported that many patients are doing better when salt is added to their food, rather than restricted.

The anti-clotting chemical, heparin, is being tried cautiously in women who develop high blood pressure during pregnancy. This is the forerunner of dangerous convulsions. The ancient Greeks seeing a pregnant woman seized with a sudden fit thought it was due to a lightning thrust from heaven and gave it the name of eclampsia, meaning, "a bolt from the blue."

The condition remains a mystery, although modern doctors can detect the early stage of the disease by watching the pregnant woman's blood pressure. When it goes up, the patient is usually promptly put to bed. What to do next has remained a problem because the cause of the condition is not known.

It is known, however, that the blood of women with this condition clots more quickly. The red blood cells tend to stick together and the small blood spaces in the liver and placenta seem to be blocked by clotting fibers.

This has led to the trial of the anti-clotting chemical, heparin. When this is injected for several days into the veins of women in the pre-eclampsia stage, many of the serious symptoms seem to improve, Dr. E. W. Page of the

University of California Medical School reported.

The improvement lasts as long as the drug is given. But the drug seldom cures the condition completely for the blood pressure often remains high.

The new treatment, Dr. Page pointed out, has certain drawbacks. It is expensive. The patient requires constant attention day and night. And it is dangerous, although no harmful effects have been noted so far.

Dr. Page and other scientists consider it merely a step toward development of a simpler, less costly treatment which will produce the same good results.

*Science News Letter, May 15, 1948*

PSYCHOLOGY

## Color of Skin Doesn't Affect Color Vision

➤ THE color of a person's skin has nothing to do with the acuteness of his color vision, it is indicated by a study made by Dr. R. W. Pickford, of the psychology department of the University at Glasgow, Scotland. His race may have.

Tests on 571 men and women normally sensitive to color and 138 colorblind persons, reported in the scientific journal, *Nature* (May 1), show that red and green are mixed up by dark people just as much as by the fair but no more often.

These results are in conflict with the earlier finding that red-green blindness is more common in the south and west of the British Isles where the original dark-skinned inhabitants were pushed back in the days when the blond Nordics invaded. Earlier studies had also shown that red-green blindness is less common among American Indians and American Negroes than among American whites.

It may be racial difference rather than the difference in color that is related to

differences in color vision, Dr. Pickford suggests.

To check on this, he tested 20 members of dark-skinned races. Still he found no difference in ability to see and distinguish red and green. They are, however, less sensitive to blue and yellow.

Nine of the group are Dravidians, a people from India. These people were found to be less sensitive to yellow and blue than the Europeans tested. Six West Africans were even less sensitive than the Dravidians.

Negroes and American Indians, it seems, have better red-green color vision than Europeans, but Dravidians and Negroes are more often weak in vision of yellow and blue.

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