

GENERAL SCIENCE

Cracks Iron Curtain

► A LEADING American scientist has succeeded in cracking the Iron Curtain—one time anyway. Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences, will shortly have a letter published in the journal of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The letter protests acceptance by Hungarian scientists of so-called "evidence" that Americans used bacteriological warfare in North Korea.

The letter is in reply to a cablegram from Istavan Rusznyak, president of the Hungarian Academy, which says: "We Hungarian scientists have been profoundly shocked to learn of the horrible fact contrary to all human feelings that the United States forces fighting in Korea have used bacteriological weapons to exterminate the peaceful Korean and Chinese peoples."

The cable goes on to ask Dr. Bronk and other American scientists to "raise your voices in protest against this ghastly deed."

Dr. Bronk replied that members of the National Academy in this country were well enough informed "to be certain that this assertion is not true. No member of

our Academy knows of evidence which supports your claim that the United Nations forces in Korea have waged bacteriological warfare."

Dr. Bronk regretted that Hungarian scientists could not reserve judgment about the charges and urged that the Hungarian Academy support an impartial and objective study by the International Red Cross, as proposed by the United States.

Mr. Rusznyak replied at some length to Dr. Bronk's cable asserting that the facts were all in and that the case against the United States was proved. He denied that the International Red Cross was a neutral and independent body. He requested that his reply appear in *Science*, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The journal's editorial board promised to do so provided that Mr. Rusznyak promised to publish the whole correspondence in the journal of the Hungarian Academy. Having received this promise, *Science* (Oct. 24) published the Hungarian scientist's letter.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

PHYSIOLOGY

Fountain of Youth

► A NEW KIND of Fountain of Youth is suggested in research by two scientists at London University, England.

It would be a bank, like a skin or artery bank, in which a person could store some of his own youthful body tissues. Later, he could draw on the bank to replace tissues which have become worn with age.

Middle-aged women might get new faces and necks of wrinkle-free skin. Middle-aged men might get bits of arteries and veins to replace worn spots in their aging blood vessels. Hearts might last longer if they did not have to work extra hard pumping blood through age-thickened and narrowed arteries.

The discovery from which these future possibilities are seen is that skin can be removed from a rabbit's ear, impregnated with glycerine, frozen at 79 degrees below zero on the Centigrade scale, and stored intact for four months. At the end of that time, it can be transplanted and grows perfectly.

This discovery was made by Dr. R. E. Billingham and Prof. P. B. Medawar. These scientists "see no reason to doubt" that the pieces of rabbit skin would have survived storage "for periods greatly exceeding even the most optimistic expectation of life of their donor."

The skin is as capable of growing and differentiating as a freshly removed graft, they state in their report to the *Journal of Experimental Biology*.

A kind of immortality might also be achieved through this discovery, it appears. The skin and perhaps other tissues a person deposited with the bank might live long after him.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

NUTRITION

Enriched Meat for Babies Can Substitute for Milk

► MINERAL-ENRICHED meat can substitute for milk in the diet of babies and growing children, Dr. Mildred R. Ziegler of the University of Minnesota told the American Dietetic Association meeting in Minneapolis, Minn.

The enriched meat is for those babies and children who for various reasons cannot take milk. Some babies are so allergic to cow's milk that they can get eczema, bronchial asthma, or severe anaphylactic shock which may end fatally if kept on cow's milk.

Galactosemia is another condition for which the enriched meat is useful. Babies afflicted with this are born with inability to handle the sugar, galactose, derived from the sugar in milk. Enlarged liver, retarded physical growth and development, cataracts and feeble-mindedness are symptoms which may develop in these babies if milk feeding is persisted in. The condition is not so rare, Dr. Ziegler said.

The enriched meat is good for growing children with epilepsy and for healthy children who dislike milk so much that they do not drink enough of it.

Dr. Ziegler's enriched meat formula uses cooked and strained lean meat fortified with fat, carbohydrate, certain vitamins, and calcium, magnesium and phosphorus salts.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

Do You Know?

A cheese can be produced from *cottonseed* kernels.

Water marks for paper were developed in 1818 and first used on British banknotes.

It costs about \$3,000,000 a year to keep white *stripes* in good repair on the nation's highways.

At sea level there are about 400,000,000,000,000,000,000 *molecules* of air to the cubic inch, all traveling faster than rifle bullets.

When an *auto* traveling 60 miles an hour strikes a stationary object such as a stone wall, the impact is the same as if the car had been driven off the top of a nine-story building.

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