

THESE HANDS ARE ABLE—F. E. Poole, Chairman—*American Heart Association*, 10 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 44 East 23d St., New York 10, N. Y. Studies show that workers with heart disease keep pace with unimpaired employees in work output. Intended to dissipate the misunderstanding of the work capacity of cardiacs.

VERDICT IN KOREA—Robert T. Oliver—*Bald Eagle Press*, 207 p., \$4.00. The author, on the faculty of Pennsylvania State College, gained his knowledge of Korea as counselor to President Rhee and to the Korean Commission in Washington.

THE WORLD OF ELI WHITNEY—Jeannette Mirsky and Allan Nevins—*Macmillan*, 346 p., illus., \$5.75. The story of the man who invented the cotton gin and was the father of mass production through his development of interchangeable parts for the musket.

YOU AND TUBERCULOSIS—James E. Perkins and Floyd M. Feldmann with Ruth Carson—*Knopf*, 176 p., \$2.50. Intended to supplement the physician's instruction so that the patient may be aided in giving necessary cooperation in his cure.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1952

MEDICINE

Electric Current in Chest Starts "Standstill" Heart

➤ A MACHINE that puts an electric current through the chest and heart may save lives threatened by heart "standstill," Dr. Paul M. Zoll of Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, reports in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (Nov. 13).

One patient's heart was kept beating by this machine for five straight days. During a period of 52 hours the ventricular muscles of the heart did not make a single natural beat when the electric stimulator was turned off.

The machine, called a thyatron stimulator, is the size of a table radio and can be plugged into any ordinary alternating current electrical outlet. It converts the electricity into waves or impulses which can be varied in length, strength and timing.

Two hypodermic needles stuck into the chest, one on each side, carry the current through the heart.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1952

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BIOCHEMISTRY

Mental Patients Benefit

➤ **GOOD RESULTS** in treatment of some mental patients with a relaxing drug called Prenderol were reported by Dr. Lowell S. Selling of Orlando, Fla., at the meeting of the Southern Medical Association in Miami.

The patients were suffering from anxiety with tension. They complained of "feeling bad," they could not concentrate. Some had strange notions, such as those of the woman who thought people shunned her because of body odor, even though her doctors assured her she had none. Some were afraid to trust people. Some had a "general undecipherable fear."

The drug Dr. Selling used was made as a drug to relax muscles and to serve as an anti-convulsant. Chemically, it is related to mephanesin, and is 2,2-diethyl-1,3-propanediol. The manufacturer, E. R. Squibb and Sons, did not suggest any use for it in mental patients, but Dr. Selling thought if it were relaxing in organic conditions, it might relax patients whose tension came from disturbed emotions.

This has so far proved to be the case. Some patients get over their tension, and return to normal and stop taking the drug. Some are relaxed enough so that psychotherapy can help them. The drug is, Dr. Selling says, "as harmless as most medications with any degree of potency can be." Exceptional patients may be found who cannot tolerate it.

Drawbacks to the drug are that the tablet is "large and ungainly," difficult to swallow

and has a somewhat unpleasant taste. A 200-pound man may have to take eight tablets after each meal to get enough. It causes drowsiness, which is helpful for patients who have had trouble sleeping, but a drawback for the first day or two since it may limit the patient's activity. It is not habit-forming. However, Dr. Selling feels it should only be used by a psychiatrist until more research can be done on it.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1952

INVENTION

Sorter Separates Radioactive Ores

➤ **RADIOACTIVE ORES** are separated according to their degree of radioactivity with an apparatus invented by Christian M. Lapointe, Port Radium, Canada. The patent, number 2,617,526, is assigned to Eldorado Mining and Refining, Ltd., Ottawa.

The ore is fed past a Geiger counter. The impulses of radioactivity are translated into electrical energy to activate the sorting mechanism.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1952

Questions

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