

WHITE PLAGUE CURE ASSURED

Specialist Says Method of Eradicating Disease Will Be Found.

Washington.—The present generation will see tuberculosis cured by the ordinary physician as a result of researches now being conducted in many of the large laboratories of the medical schools and universities of the country, according to a prediction made by Dr. William Charles White, consultant in tuberculosis to the United States public health service and chairman of the National Tuberculosis association's committee on medical research.

In this task of determining the cause and effect of tubercle bacillus and methods by which it may be eradicated, Doctor White's committee has enlisted the most skilled scientists, chemists and anatomists of the country, who are devoting their time to pursuing these researches in the hope of eventually mastering the white plague.

"I have no doubt that the work we are carrying on in this field," Doctor White said, "to get a better understanding of the history of this bacillus in the body will see in our generation physicians able to cure by their own efforts, rather than by trusting to nature and the slow and uncertain remedy of today."

"I would be foolhardy," Doctor White added, "to predict the nature of the cure in man. I feel sure, however, it will not be by vaccination. It will more likely be by something that interferes with the relation existing between the bacillus and its host, the epithelioid cell or lung cell, and the collection of these which form the tubercle."

Remedy for Cattle.

"In cattle I believe the process will be by vaccination and by pasteurization of food products and not by the fearfully wasteful method of condemnation and destruction of the present time."

In addition to these researches in medical laboratories, the government now is engaged in some extensive tests of the Danish sanocystin tuberculosis cure, a combination of gold salts and serum prepared by Dr. Holgar Molgaard, professor of physiology of the Agriculture college of Copenhagen. These tests are now in progress on selected calves, undergoing the treatment at the Department of Agriculture experiment station at Bethesda, Md.; at the laboratory of the New York state health department at Otisville, N. Y., and at the Rockefeller Laboratory for Research in Diseases of Animals at Princeton, N. J. On the success of these tests will depend whether the public health service will issue a permit to an American firm to sell and distribute the serum in this country.

The greatest reliance on obtaining an absolute cure for tuberculosis is placed by government scientists and medical experts in the laboratory researches that are now in progress. Doctor White pointed out that the last 20 years of tuberculosis work have been devoted to education and prevention propaganda, and the nation has neglected the effort of endeavoring to find out more of the disease itself. Medical science, he said, now is focused on the task of determining the relation of the tubercle bacillus to the body and means by which it may be successfully eradicated.

Associated with Doctor White on the National Tuberculosis association research committee are Dr. Allan Krause, associate professor of medicine of Johns Hopkins university, Baltimore; Dr. Paul A. Lewis of the Rockefeller Institute at Princeton, and Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, director of Phipps Institute for Tuberculosis at the University of Pennsylvania. "Tuberculosis," Doctor White said, "probably is the most difficult problem in modern medicine. While we know more of the tubercle bacillus than of any other disease germ, we know little of its parasitism, that is, of its intimate symbiotic existence within the cells of the lungs, where most of its life history is pursued."

"Specific cures for disease, as we know them today, have come to us mainly along two channels; first, by revelation, often in the most unexpected places, and secondly, by the steady progress of the human mind in the laboratory. To the natives of Peru came first the knowledge of the curative value of cinchona bark, from which we obtain our quinine in the cure of malaria. Similarly to the natives of Brazil came first the knowledge that ipecac, from which we get our emetine, would cure dysentery. From the laboratory source we have salvarsan, diphtheria antitoxin, insulin, carbon tetrachloride and many others, and all are purified by means of special action of other substances."

Scope of Research Work. Describing the scope of the research work now in progress Doctor White said:

"First for the chemical analysis of the tubercle bacillus and its products we have enlisted the great commercial laboratories of Parke, Davis & Co. and Mulford & Co., with the best chemists of the universities of Yale and Chicago.

"For the study of the reason for the curious position of tuberculosis in the body, in the tops of human lungs and the lower parts of cattle lungs, the anatomical department of the University of Wisconsin at Madison is engaged.

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"To ascertain the relation of cattle tuberculosis to human tuberculosis studies are being made in the Phipps Institute of the University of Pennsylvania.

"For the determination of X-ray normals the experts in the Johns Hopkins, Cincinnati and Pennsylvania universities are contributing their help.

"The tubercle bacillus," Doctor White explained, "grows at the expense of the human or animal body, but in a particular cell of that body. This cell, for 40 years, has been called the epithelioid. As the bacilli multiply, cells of this type multiply about them and form the tubercles, or nodules, found in affected lungs.

"It is only within a year that we have known something of the origin of this cell and only within a few months that we have known how to increase or lower its number in the body. This knowledge has come by the brilliant work of two anatomists in Johns Hopkins university—Doctors Sabin and Cunningham. They have, during the last year, devoted all their vast knowledge of the human body to the study of the tubercle bacillus in relation to this cell. The means of modifying the cell has come from a study of three other diseases: Malta fever, a disease primarily of goats but to which man is susceptible and caused by the bacillus miltensis; infectious abortion of cattle, and kala-azar, a disease of man and rodents in the East. Each one of these diseases gives a different reaction in the body on the part of the cells concerned in tuberculosis.

Story Told by Scars. "Even more surprising is the new research on the scar tissue by which nature cures tuberculosis. Here again is an amazing story. A biologist, perhaps the most wonderful in America, Prof. Ross Harrison of Yale, discovered the method of growing bits of embryo tissue in the test tube, which has been so fruitful in our understanding of life and death. For years he has been studying transplanting of legs, eyes and other organs of the salamander, but, as a part of his study, he found that cells in the body to move in any direction must have a support firmer than themselves, as a grapevine must have a trellis. To prove this he let spiders spin webs of finest silk within glass rings. In these he planted his tissue and the cells grew out only along the fibrils of the web. The fibrils of scar tissue have to do as well with the movements and collection of cells of a tubercle, and now Professor Harrison and one of his co-workers, Doctors Baltzell, are turning their endeavors to a study of the tubercle."

Further research into the epithelioid cell in the test tube, Doctor White said, may soon be undertaken by Doctor and Mrs. Lewis of the Carnegie Institution, at Johns Hopkins university, where their wonderfully delicate methods of study in the laboratory have been so successful—Emmet Dougherty in the New York Herald-Tribune.

Measures Prosperity by the Use of Sugar. Columbus, Ohio.—Sugar is the world's yardstick of prosperity, according to R. F. Taber, an Ohio State university economist.

"Sugar, as much as any one product, tells how prosperous the leading nations of the world are," says Taber. "With sugar as the yardstick, the United States leads the world in prosperity and Russia is near the bottom of the list."

Taber explains that although a certain amount of sugar will be used as a necessity, all sweets over a certain point are regarded as luxury. "Assuming, therefore, that the craving for sugar is proportional to the craving for other luxuries and human indulgences, we get a fairly accurate idea of a nation's prosperity from its per capita consumption of sugar."

Recent statistics show that the average person in the United States eats 101 pounds of sugar every year. England stands next with a per capita consumption of 93. Germany records 33 pounds per person every year, Italy 14 and Russia 9.

Six Grandmothers

Corvallis, Mont.—Bert Douglas Walker, aged nine months, is the most grandmothers baby in the world, it is believed. He has six living—two grandmothers proper, two greats, and two great-greats. Mr. and Mrs. Clem Walker are his parents. The grandmothers are Mrs. Lucy Cole and Mrs. E. N. Walker of this city. The great-grandmothers are Mrs. M. F. Popham and Mrs. N. Baquet, both of Corvallis; and the great-great-grandmothers are Mrs. A. L. Cole of Missoula and Mrs. Samatha Walker of Unionville, Mo.

Lost Flower Found

Washington.—A flower species found in early American colonial days and not seen again for 175 years has been rediscovered at Upper Marlboro, Md., near here, by two Washington naturalists, Dr. E. T. Wherry of the United States Department of Agriculture and Dr. J. E. Benedict of the National museum.

Japan Subsidizes Radio

Tokyo.—A bill granting a subsidy to the new radio corporation of Japan, established for the promotion of radio intercourse between this country and America, will be introduced in the diet by the department of communications. It will provide for an amount equal to 8 per cent of the capitalization of the concern.

Mrs. Albert Brown of 2630 Capitol avenue who has been ill for several months is reported to be much better and steadily improving.

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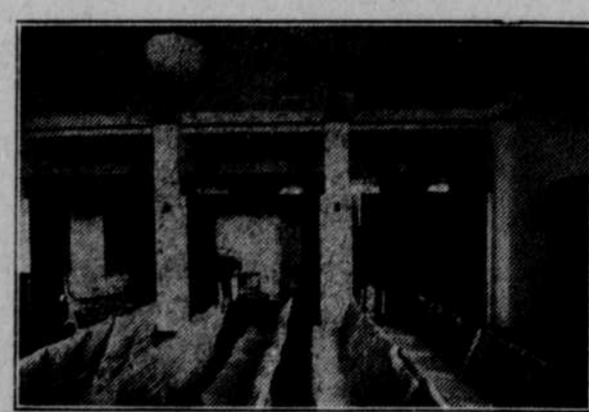
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