

Scientists Develop New Method To Fingerprint Infantile Paralysis

Procedure May Well Give Medical World Fast Means to Classify Groups, Types

By PAUL F. ELLIS, United Press Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Aug. 2.—A new test tube method to "fingerprint" the viruses that cause polio has been developed here, and eventually may be a powerful weapon in devising means to control the disease.

The method, being perfected after six years of tedious research work, financed by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, is expected to eliminate to a great extent the necessity of using monkeys in determining and classifying the polio viruses. It has been established that there are at least three groups of polio viruses, each different from the other.

The test tube development here may well give medical scientists quick answers to such questions as what variety of polio is striking, and what group of persons may be susceptible to the disease. It possibly may be a diagnostic test.

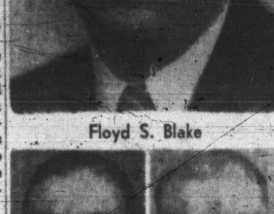
Extremely Small Virus
Scientists at the George William Hooper Foundation for Medical Research of the University of California said that the new test tube method might have some value as a diagnostic tool, but that the real importance will be to speed up the search for a quick, inexpensive way to "fingerprint" the viruses as to their identity and their virulence.

Editor's Note—A sure, cheap diagnostic test for polio, or infantile paralysis, is needed to make possible a check on the spread of the disease and possibly better treatment. In the following dispatch, United Press Science Writer Paul F. Ellis tells of a new test tube method that may give the medical scientists a powerful weapon against the crippling disease.

Polio scientists have long sought to develop a test tube serological method for polio, such as is used in bacterial diseases. But the polio virus is so extremely small that 25 million of them placed end to end would extend only one inch.

As a result, it has been necessary instead to use animals, such as monkeys, inoculating them with substance believed to contain the virus. If the monkey came down with the disease, then it was confirmation that the virus was present. But, the animal experiments have been costly and slow in determining the presence of virus and identifying it.

Transition Period
The new method, now in a transition period from a pilot plant operation to a large-scale production, employs a protein substance, known as protamine, a derivative of salmon sperm. It has been used in the manufac-



Floyd S. Blake



Mr. Wolf

ture of certain types of insulin, and is easily obtainable. The secret of the success in the use of protamine lies in the fact that it has a positive electrical charge and the polio virus has a negative electrical charge. Particles of opposite electrical charges attract each other. Hence, polio virus will cling or adhere to protamine, and thus form a relatively large mass.

Such a mass is necessary if the detection of polio is to be made in a test tube. The polio virus itself, however, is not observed. What is observed is the reaction resulting from mixing the virus-covered protamine with blood samples.

Transparent Flakes
If the blood serum contains anti-bodies created by a polio infection there will be a reaction, visible to the eye. The reaction is the appearance of thin, transparent flakes in the test tube solution.

If the blood being tested has no anti-bodies and there is no reaction, then the solution remains clear. It is a sign that there is no polio infection.

Such tests have been made using both monkey and human blood in the experiments.

Technically, the new method is known as the flocculation test, and can be done in a matter of hours. In monkey experiments, without the test tube technique, the time is three weeks or longer.

The development may eventually be a diagnostic test, but the scientists here say that its significance and importance are related now to the identification of polio viruses in the search to determine how many varieties of the disease hit in this country, and what persons are likely to be infected.

Thus, the new test tube method should give medical scientists some of the answers to the how and why of polio epidemics.

NEXT: Family responsibility as aid to check polio.

Propose \$300 Pay Hike for Teachers

INCREASE INCLUDED IN MUNCIE BUDGET

MUNCIE, Aug. 2.—A blanket salary increase of \$300 for Muncie teachers has been included in the proposed tax rate schedule adopted by the Muncie School Board in the first meeting held by the body after reorganization of officers.

New figures compiled by the board set the 1950 tax rate at \$2.35 on each \$100 of taxable property.

Rate Is Increased
Although the special school fund was increased from 58 to 73 cents of the tax receipts, the tuition fund was reduced from 96 to 75 cents. The special fund provides three cents of the tax income for school building sites.

The balance of the levy makes 75 cents for the cumulative building fund and five cents for bond retirement.

Board members said the proposed tax rate would provide more money for the schools than was realized last year because of a new property evaluation totaling \$62,508,000 in the city.

Board officers include Norman K. Durham, president; Mrs. Marie Owens, treasurer, and Joseph L. Douglas, secretary.

Hope Recovering in Fall From Imitation Horse
HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 2.—(UP)—Comedian Bob Hope was recovering today from injuries received in a fall from a make-believe horse he was "riding" for a scene in the film "Where Men Are Men."

Mr. Hope was knocked unconscious by the fall yesterday and rushed to Hollywood Hospital, where X-rays showed he was not seriously hurt.

The script called for him to ride a saddle-mounted on a barrel which was to be jiggled up and down by actress Lucille Ball. He was rehearsing when he fell and landed on his back.

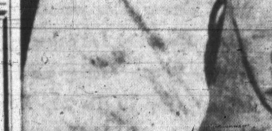
Doctors said he suffered severe bruises in the lower back and will be in bed for two or three days.

Anna Roosevelt Gets Custody of Child
PHOENIX, Ariz., Aug. 2.—(UP)—Radio commentator and actress Anna Roosevelt divorced her second husband, Newman John Boettiger, in a six-minute hearing here yesterday.

The only daughter of the late President was granted a decree on her cross-complaint charging willful desertion. She was granted custody of their only child, John Jr. 10.

Mrs. Boettiger also has two children by her first marriage to New York broker Curtis Dall.

She's Driving Home a Point



For years teachers have been pounding facts into their students' heads, but here the process is reversed. Edna Elyson, of Cowen, W. Va., a science fellow at Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, O., pounds on the head of her physics professor, Dr. Richard Sutton. The wood block into which Edna drives the nail rests on a 50-pound chunk of iron atop the prof's head. The inertia of the iron serves as a cushion which protects Sutton from feeling the blows of the hammer.

Beats Salary on Giveaways But Finds It Hard Work

Insurance Man Spends One-Week Vacation Going to Radio Quiz Shows, Wins \$150

By PATRICIA CLARY, United Press Hollywood Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 2.—An insurance man spent his vacation going to giveaway shows and went back to his job today with more money than he would have earned by working.

Frank B. St. John, a middle-aged former Chicagoan, collected a total of \$150 in merchandise in five days of sitting at radio shows. "I always thought I could be smarter than the people I heard on giveaway shows," he said.

"Now I've proved it," he said. "Mr. St. John started his one-week vacation with about 70 tickets he had rounded up from friends. It turned out however that he couldn't stand the strain of more than 20 shows, four a day.

More Work Than Working
"It's much more work than working," he said. "The questions are easy, but the nervous strain is terrific. It's too hard on me to do it more than one week a year."

By Friday, he was so tuckered out he had to stay home from the week-end gold mines to get a rest.

Mr. St. John made his killing on only one program. "They asked me to tell a girl how her husband would feel about her having a baby," he said. "I decided to spend his next vacation said things were very convenient for fathers these days."

"For that they gave me a floor he said."

Promotion of Three Executives of the Terminal Transport Co.
530 Kentucky Ave., trucking agency operating from Chicago to Tampa, Fla., was announced today by Carl Volmerding, executive president.

Floyd S. Blake, 1908 King Ave., has been made secretary and controller. Louis G. Wolf, 4255 Crittenden Ave., has been named vice president and director of maintenance and transportation. William G. Waldron, 4615 Lafayette Road, was named vice president and director of terminal operations.

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