

TUESDAY, AUG. 2, 1949

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

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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. It has been used in the manufac-

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.

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 then 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.

Nephew Takes \$5000 as 'Joke,' Lands in Cell

APPLETON, Wis., Aug. 2 (UP)—Melvin Hopfensperger, 33, said today he took \$5000 from his uncle's coat pocket as a joke.

"I don't know why I kept it," he said.

But police said they knew. They said he wanted it to buy a \$1600 car, some new clothes and to give \$500 to a friend.

He pleaded guilty to grand larceny charges in municipal court yesterday and was held under \$3000 bond. Sentence was deferred pending an investigation.

HIS UNCLE, Art Hopfensperger, Kaukauna, said he thought he had misplaced the money and put an ad in a newspaper for its recovery. The nephew was arrested on a tip that he was flashing \$100 bills in local taverns.

About \$308 is turned over to the court and all but \$154 has been accounted for, police said.

Anna Roosevelt Gets Custody of Child

PHOENIX, Ariz., Aug. 2 (UP)—Radio commentator Anna Roosevelt divorced her second husband, Newsman 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 wilful desertion. She was granted custody of their only child, John Jr. 10.

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

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

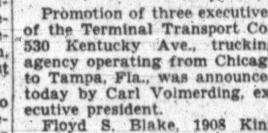
Three Promoted



Floyd S. Blake



Mr. Wolff



Mr. Waldron

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 \$1,150 in merchandise in five days of sitting at radio shows.

"I always thought I could do better on giveaway shows," he said. "Now I've proved it."

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 said things were very convenient for fathers these days."

"For that they gave me a floor

"I sit on the aisle and make some smart crack when the announcer goes by," he confided. "That's the way to get picked."

Mr. St. John, who lived in Chicago until two years ago, said he'd never seen a radio show do worse anything before.

"As long as they were passing out everything but the radio station," he said, "I thought I'd get my share."

He added that he's already decided to spend his next vacation in the giveaway audiences.

"I get two weeks next year," he said.

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Ironing Board Pad and Cover

All three pieces for only

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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 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.