

MEDICINE

# Don't Waste Penicillin

Though there is now enough for general civilian use as well as for the armed forces, the precious drug should not be used except for certain conditions.

► EVEN though there is now enough penicillin for general civilian use as well as for the armed forces, there is not enough of it to waste any. Use of the precious mold chemical in conditions which it does not remedy would be a waste.

Experience with over 5,000 cases which have been carefully studied under the auspices of the National Research Council and the Office of Scientific Research and Development show that penicillin is good for the following conditions:

1. All staphylococcal infections with and without blood stream involvement including acute and chronic osteomyelitis, carbuncles and soft tissue abscesses, meningitis, cavernous or lateral sinus thrombosis, pneumonia, empyema, carbuncle of the kidney, wound infections, burns and endocarditis (a form of heart disease).

2. All cases of clostridia infections, which includes gas gangrene.

3. All hemolytic streptococcal infections with invasion of the germs into the blood and all serious local infections. The list of these conditions includes cellulitis, mastoiditis with brain involvement, pneumonia and empyema, childbed fever, peritonitis and endocarditis.

4. Childbed fever and local infections due to anaerobic infections.

5. Meningitis, pleurisy and endocarditis due to pneumococci and all sulfa-drug-resistant pneumococcal pneumonia.

6. All gonococcal infections, including those complicated by arthritis, eye trouble, endocarditis, peritonitis and epididymitis.

7. All cases of anthrax.

8. All cases of chronic pulmonary suppuration in which operations are contemplated.

9. All meningococcal infections in which sulfa drugs fail.

10. All cases of bacterial endocarditis in which the heart trouble is due to germs susceptible to penicillin.

Syphilis is listed as a condition in which penicillin has been found effective but its position not definitely defined.

Influenza, tularemia, undulant fever,

tuberculosis, acute rheumatic fever, acute and chronic leukemia, malaria, infantile paralysis, virus infections and cancer are listed, along with a number of less familiar ailments, as conditions for which penicillin should not be used because it does not have any effect on the illness.

*Science News Letter, March 24, 1945*

## Rushed by Air

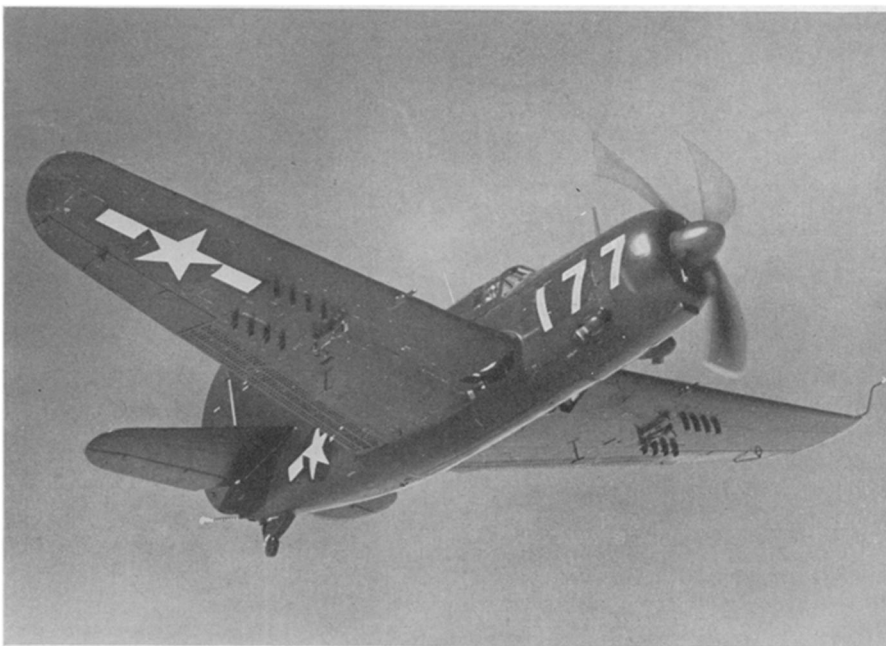
► A HUNDRED and thirty billion units of penicillin, or about 6,500,000 doses of the life-saving mold chemical, were rushed to the nation's drug stores, hospitals and drug supply houses for civilian use which began on March 15.

Between that date and April 1, a total of 130,000,000 units will be available for civilian use by War Production Board allocation. (From 5,000 to 40,000 units are needed in each injection, depending on the illness.) This is more than three times as much as has ever been released for an entire month by WPB's civilian

penicillin distribution unit in Chicago. For the month of April, the civilian allocation will be increased to 150,000,000 units. After that, monthly allocations are expected to be increased each month.

The nation's airlines are carrying large quantities of the life-saving chemical, which must be kept at a temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit or less. Some of it, from E. R. Squibb and Sons and Winthrop Chemical Co., was shipped by air express during the first week in March, in anticipation of the new WPB allocation. Cheplin Laboratories, at Syracuse, N. Y., shipped in excess of 5,000,000 units, most of it by air express, to about 200 distribution centers throughout the United States during Wednesday night, March 14, and Thursday morning, March 15. Charles Pfizer and Co., with a March allocation of over 50,000,000 units, is shipping to six large distributors.

Although penicillin for civilian use will go into drug stores, it probably will not go directly from the producers to the neighborhood druggist or the physician. Like many other drugs, it will go from producer to local distributor and thence to the drug store and the physician. Some of the penicillin producers are drug producers with their own distribution centers. Others are chemical manufacturers who never before have been medical distributors and will dis-



**CURTISS SB2C-4**—Looking deadlier than ever in the Navy's new all-midnight blue camouflage, this is the newest version of the SB2C Helldiver dive-bomber and is revealed to carry one of the greatest loads of destructive power ever mounted in a single-engine aircraft. (See SNL, March 3.)