

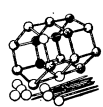
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IMMUNOLOGY

Vaccine Policy Attacked

► THE DEVELOPER of the oral live polio vaccine, Dr. Albert B. Sabin, strongly criticized the current procedures of using oral vaccines primarily to control epidemics and letting individual physicians choose whether to immunize their parents with live or killed vaccines.

"Since there is now abundant evidence that epidemics of poliomyelitis need never occur, it seems highly desirable that those who are responsible for the public health should take the necessary measures to prevent them rather than recommend procedures for stopping them only after many needless cases of paralysis and death have occurred," he declared.

Dr. Sabin addressed the Royal Society of Health in London, where he was initiated as one of its honorary fellows. Dr. Sabin is the distinguished service professor of research pediatrics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Using either the oral or the killed poliovirus vaccines for immunizing infants or other unvaccinated persons, the choice being left to the individual physician or health officer, will not eliminate polio, the scientist said.

In countries where extensive use of Salk vaccine has markedly diminished but not eliminated polio, Dr. Sabin stressed that all young children must still receive the oral vaccine regardless of how many doses of Salk vaccine they may have had.

This type of program is backed by the American Medical Association.

Many believe that an "irreducible minimum" of polio will remain even if oral vaccine is substituted for Salk vaccine, yet "this assumption disregards the proved higher immunogenic capacity of the oral vaccine, especially in very young children," Dr. Sabin said. He also emphasized the fact that a "70% greater coverage with oral vaccine can break the chain of transmission of poliovirus in a way that killed virus cannot."

Some parts of the world have almost

completely eliminated polio by mass use of oral vaccine, but in other parts, where Salk vaccine has been used, but not extensively, polio continues to be a serious problem, as in West Germany, France and Italy in Europe.

"In recent years polio has begun to emerge as an epidemic disease of considerable importance in many countries of Asia, Africa and South America, where in the past the infection rate was high and the disease rate low, just as it was in northern Europe and North America only 40 to 50 years ago," the scientist concluded.

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AGRICULTURE

Three Chemicals Emerge As Potential Herbicides

► THREE NEW CHEMICALS have been found effective in the fight against weeds.

U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists reported that the trio of weed killers performed well with several important crops last year, but more tests are scheduled.

Dipropalin, trifloralin and diphenamid were found effective in varying dosages against pigweed and ryegrass, yet were tolerated by many of the productive crops grown on the protected areas. Other weeds and unwanted plants were controlled by the chemicals.

The new herbicides were discovered in the evaluation program conducted at the USDA's Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Md. The program is reported in the February issue of Agricultural Research, 10:12, 1962.

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