

pinned down accurately on the map. This was characteristic of the first shock on March 2, also. Not all earthquakes have good, sharply defined epicenters; some of them seem to originate over a whole area rather than at a single given place.

While the two "home" earthquakes kept Americans interested, Central America slipped one past unnoticed except by scientists. On the morning of Tuesday, March 9, at 10:40.2, eastern standard time, a strong shock occurred at approximately 8.9 degrees north latitude, 83.8 degrees west longitude. Determination was made by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

This is not far from the locality where a destructive earthquake occurred on July 18, 1934, wrecking a wharf and other structures in the towns of David and Puerto Armulles in the Republic of Panama.

Observatories reporting to Science Service were those of Fordham University, Canisius College, the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Williams College, the University of Michigan, the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, and the station of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey at Tucson, Ariz.

*Science News Letter, March 20, 1937*

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MEDICINE

# New Chemical Saves Lives of Type III Pneumonia Patients

## The Dye, Prontosil, Already Entered in Battle Against Streptococci, Now Finds New Usefulness

A NEW victory in the fight against pneumonia is reported by Dr. Ralph R. Mellon, director of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital Institute of Pathology, Pittsburgh.

Prontosil and its close relative, Prontylin, chemical compounds already hailed as life-saving remedies in cases of deadly streptococcus infections, are proving effective remedies for Type III pneumonia. Serum treatment has not been satisfactory in this pneumonia although Types I and II pneumonias can be cured by use of the proper serum.

Reports of patients treated with these chemicals were given by Dr. Mellon before scientific audiences in Los Angeles and Pasadena.

Of 9 Type III pneumonia patients treated with the chemicals, 7 recovered and 2 died. These figures are exactly the reverse of those for a group of 9 patients who were not given the chemical treatment. In this group, 7 died and only 2 recovered.

The number of patients treated is not large, but studies of the chemical treatment for pneumonia in mice and rats adds to the evidence for the value of the new remedy. These studies have been going on at a number of institutions since the value of Prontosil for streptococcus infections, such as child-bed fever, septic sore throat, scarlet fever and erysipelas, was first announced.

Dr. Mellon and associates studied the effect of Prontosil and Prontylin on pneumonia in rats rather than mice because they believe pneumonia in rats is more like the human disease. In a group of 14 rats infected with Type III pneumonia, the deathrate was 85 per cent. These rats had not had any Prontosil treatment. In another group of 13 rats with Type III pneumonia, Prontosil treatment brought the deathrate down to 23 per cent.

Chemical treatment of pneumonia is not new. Many years ago Dr. Lloyd Felton of Harvard Medical School studied the action of various chemicals, including sulfanilamide, the active part of Prontosil, in pneumonia. When a successful serum treatment for Type I pneumonia was developed, however, the idea of chemical treatment of the pneumonias was abandoned. Scientists have since been trying to develop equally successful serums for all the 32 pneumonias, especially the first four types. Successful serums for Type I and Type II are now available.

*Science News Letter, March 20, 1937*

ECOLOGY

## Shelterbelt Trees Live Despite the Drought

TREES planted in the West's much-controverted shelterbelt area show high survival percentage despite two years of desperate drought, the U. S. Forest Service reports. Survivals average 550 trees to the acre, out of an average of 740 planted.

Chinese elm and cottonwood that were 18 inches high when planted in the spring of 1935 are now 15 and 16 feet high. Species showing best growth include green ash, cottonwood, Chinese elm, red cedar and Ponderosa pine.

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Asphalt roads colored red are found helpful for visibility in night driving.

An octopus in an Australian aquarium hatched a quarter of a million eggs in one brood.

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