



BILLIONS OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Known as a Phoroptor, this new eye-testing instrument contains only 36 lenses, but can determine for oculists any one of 61,060,386,816 prescriptions for glasses. Fitting persons for glasses used to be done by hand, inserting different lenses into frames. By manipulating the dials of this new device this tedious task can be done rapidly and accurately for it adds, automatically, the magnifying powers of its 36 lenses in various combinations.

Vitamins B and C were found useful remedies for retinal bleeding in diabetes.

Cultivation of rabies virus outside the brain of a living animal, once considered impossible, was accomplished and may make anti-rabies vaccine production easier.

Making glutathione radioactive, scientists found themselves better able to trace the course of this important chemical in the body, and to explain mechanism of its action.

New X-ray technic was developed for detecting placenta praevia by sixth month of pregnancy, thus allowing time to save both mother and baby from this often fatal complication.

Fluorine in drinking water, known to be the cause of mottled enamel of teeth, may act, according to some new observations, as a preventive of caries.

Inhalations of pure oxygen were found to give prompt relief from migraine headaches.

The common gray house mouse was discovered to be a carrier of the causative virus of the human nerve disease, choriomeningitis.

Control of hemorrhage in over 500 patients by doses of oxalic acid, usually considered an anti-coagulant, was reported.

A fatherless rabbit, developed in a foster mother's body from the non-inseminated ovum of a rabbit of another species that was activated by a salt solution in a test tube, was demonstrated, and similar activation of human ova was reported.

Riboflavin, one of the B vitamins, is necessary for human nutrition, it was discovered from investigation of cases of ariboflavinosis, condition formerly confused with pellagra.

Treatment with vitamin B₁ and liver extract was successfully used in over 50 cases of trigeminal neuralgia or tic douloureux.

Synthesis of the female sex hormone, equilenin, was announced.

Apparent cures of chronic lead poisoning in a score of cases by treatment with vitamin C were announced and liberal amounts of the vitamin in the diet were advised as preventive of the condition.

Isolation and crystallization of a horse liver enzyme, a catalase, important because it protects living cells from poisoning and destruction by the hydrogen peroxide they form, was announced.

Partial sex determination by diet was achieved in rats, high protein diet fed the male parents and low protein to the female parents resulting in a sex ratio of 145 males to 100 females in the offspring.

Injections of the chemical, xanthine, were found to prevent jaundice and other liver damage in animals, a discovery believed useful for combatting human liver damage from solvents used in industries such as dry cleaning, plastics and certain manufacturing processes.

Discovery that cobalt helps to restore red blood cells in benzol-caused anemia in animals may prove useful in combatting the anemia of benzol poisoning, an industrial hazard.

Cubicles for the isolation of babies in hospitals and homes, to prevent transfer of disease germs by cross-infection, were developed following the technic which is being used to produce germ-free guinea pigs for better scientific investigation of human diseases.

Anti-influenza vaccine was made by cultivation of influenza virus on chick embryo membranes.

Ascitic fluid was found to be an efficient substitute for blood in restorative transfusions after shock.

A simple new blood test for malaria, depend-

ing on chemistry, not bacteriology, with an accuracy of 97.4%, was reported.

Hearing tests of over 500,000 persons, greatest analysis of deafness among the population ever undertaken, revealed among other significant facts that eight out of every 1,000 has difficulty hearing direct conversation, hearing ability diminishes with increasing age and is particularly noticeable at the higher frequencies of sound.

Treatment with sulfapyridine and heparin was announced as promising hopeful results for sub-acute bacterial endocarditis.

Apparent cure of hitherto incurable and rare scleroderma by parenteral treatment with an acid preparation known as Aciform II was announced.

Failure of the anterior pituitary gland to produce enough of one of its hormones, prolactin, was said on theoretical grounds to be the cause of sprue.

Plummer-Vinson syndrome, curable and even preventable by dietary and iron treatment, was discovered to be a predisposing factor in development of cancer of mouth, pharynx and esophagus in women.

The grand jury indictment of the American Medical Association, the District of Columbia Medical Society and a number of individual physicians on charges of conspiracy in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, was thrown out by Federal District Justice James M. Proctor on the ground that the Sherman act does not count medical practise as a trade, and the U. S. Supreme Court refused to review the case before it had been taken to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY

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A plan for improving the world's population and making genius "every man's birthright" was framed by geneticists, involving birth control, conscious selection, medical care especially for mothers and improved economic and social conditions.

Dentists, artists, engineers and teachers, not clergymen, church members, lawyers or domestic servants, were found to be more numerous in the cities rating highest in "general goodness of life for good people."

Use of strychnine to vary the pattern of brain waves from the sensory cortex made possible the mapping of that area which was found to be

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