

# SCIENCE

VOL. LXX

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1929

No. 1801

## CONTENTS

<i>Immunological Prophecy from Ancient Hieroglyphics:</i>	PROFESSOR W. H. MANWARING .....	1
<i>Obituary:</i>		
<i>Recent Deaths</i> .....		8
<i>Scientific Events:</i>		
<i>The Centenary of James Smithson; Research in Coal Mining and Metallurgy at the Carnegie Institute of Technology; The Murry and Leonie Guggenheim Foundation; The American Institute of Electrical Engineers</i> .....		8
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....		10
<i>Discussion:</i>		
<i>A Mechanical Parallel to the Conditioned Reflex:</i>	PROFESSOR CLARK L. HULL and H. D. BAERNESTEIN.	
<i>Changes in the Rate of Respiration of the Fruits of the Cultivated Blueberry during Ripening:</i>	PROFESSOR H. F. BERGMAN.	
<i>An International List of Genera of Vascular Plants:</i>	DR. ALFRED GUNDERSEN.	
<i>Gregor Mendel:</i>	DR. CHAS. B. DAVENPORT .....	14
<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i>		
<i>Another Synthetic Resin Useful in Microscopy:</i>	DR. G. DALLAS HANNA .....	16

<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>On the Relation of Potassium to Iron in the Combustion of Cigar-leaf Tobacco:</i> DR. D. E. HALEY and OTTO OLSON. <i>Carbon Disulfide Emulsion for the Control of a Nematode:</i> P. J. CHAPMAN and M. M. PARKER .....	17
<i>Index to Volume LXIX</i> .....	i
<i>Science News</i> .....	x

**SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal** devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

**New York City: Grand Central Terminal.**  
**Lancaster, Pa.** **Garrison, N. Y.**  
**Annual Subscription, \$6.00. Single Copies, 15 Cts.**

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

# IMMUNOLOGICAL PROPHECY FROM ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHICS<sup>1</sup>

By Dr. W. H. MANWARING

PROFESSOR OF BACTERIOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTAL PATHOLOGY, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OUR first half-century of modern immunology has been characterized by recurring waves of clinical hope and clinical disappointment. A hundred theoretically logical, monovalent, polyvalent, prophylactic and curative antisera proposed, clinically tested and commercially exploited during the transitional years of the twentieth century. Ninety-five per cent. of them thrown into the clinical discard. An equal number of theoretically logical, monovalent, polyvalent, prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines. A scant 5 per cent. of them of more than historic interest. A thousand frantic clinical trials with theoretically logical opsonic index and leucocytic extract. All shelved with the miasmas and phlebotomies of our Revolutionary ancestors.

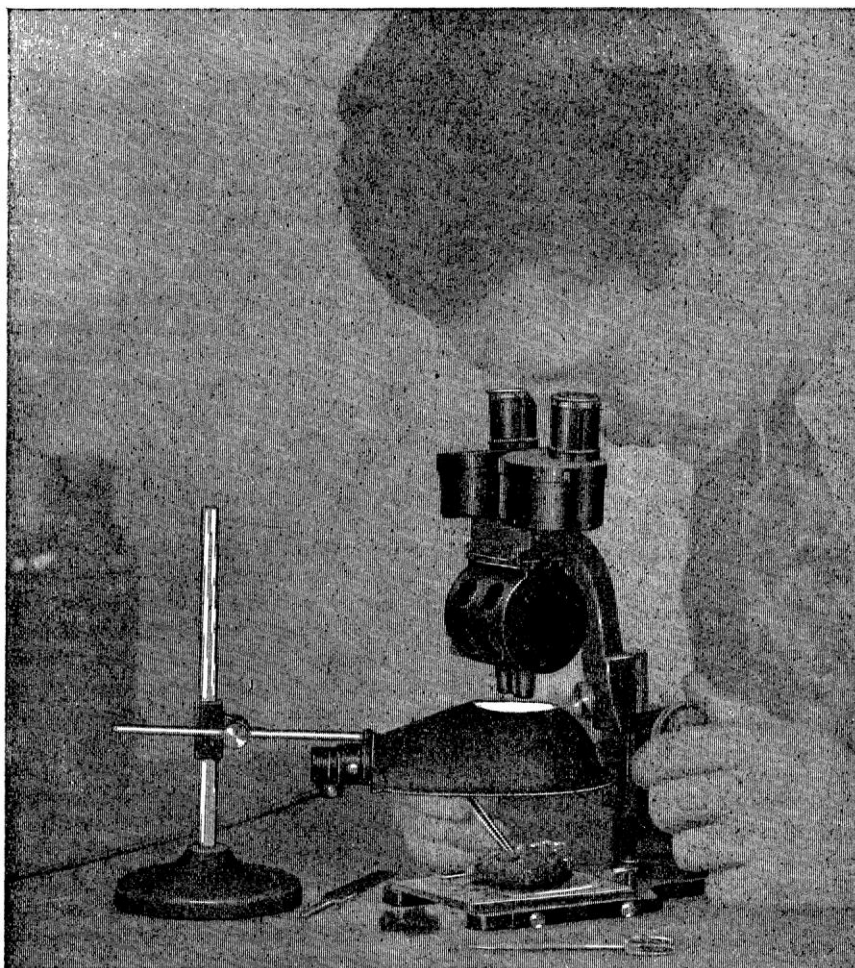
And we call this scientific medicine.

This overwhelming clinical disappointment has served one useful purpose. It has graphically dramatized the errors and inadequacies of the immunological theories from which the proposed clinical methods were logical and consistent deductions. No immunological hypothesis of the past half-century has had a clinical verification probability of more than 5 per cent.

The pressing need of clinical medicine at the present time is a radically new immunological theory, basic hypotheses more nearly consistent with clinically verifiable fact. I have thought that we might possibly obtain hints as to the probable nature of such a theory from the discarded immunological "hunches" of primitive medicine, jungle hypotheses jettisoned by the shifting theologies of medieval civilization.

<sup>1</sup> Read before the Pasteur Society of Central California, San Francisco, California, May 1, 1929, and before

the American Association for the Study of Allergy, Portland, Oregon, July, 1929.



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