

of the patient's parents suffered from the same condition. In 121 families with both parents having high blood-pressure more than three fourths of the children suffered from it also. In 216 families with one parent having this condition, over two thirds of the children also had it. In 349 families, three fifths of the brothers and sisters of high blood-pressure patients were found also to have the condition.

DR. L. THATCHER has reported to the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* that a child of eighteen months was admitted to a hospital in Edinburgh, much under weight and unable to walk alone because of weakness. Doctors at the hospital diagnosed the ailment as a kidney inflammation. The child died. Then it was found that the child had received a daily dose of irradiated ergosterol equal to twice the recommended dose and that this severe dose was continued during the summer despite the fact that he was living an outdoor life at the seashore. The double dose of vitamin D resulted in calcium being deposited not only in the bones but in the kidneys. Death in this case was caused by too much vitamin D.

A GELATIN diet has given physicians new knowledge about a certain type of Bright's disease. Results of feeding gelatin to patients suffering from this condition were reported by Dr. G. Philip Grabfield, of Boston, to the American Society for Clinical Investigation. The gelatin diet was used because gelatin is one of the pro-

tein foods that does not contain sulfur. Dr. Grabfield was investigating the fact that patients suffering from this particular form of kidney disease tend to hold on to the sulfur in the diet even more than to the nitrogen. Patients who get swollen ankles and legs, known as edema, fail to excrete sulfur as well as nitrogen, while patients suffering from the same disease but without the swelling or edema fail to excrete nitrogen alone.

TEN minutes instead of ten days is the time required by a jeweler to regulate a watch to maximum time-keeping efficiency with the use of a new electric watch timer demonstrated to the Horological Institute. Accurate time intervals are given by a special electrical current of 100 cycles per second accurate to one part in ten million furnished by telephone companies from a constant frequency generator in New York. This current drives a synchronous motor similar to those that have come into such wide use in electric clocks. Within the new timer developed by the Bell Telephone Laboratories an image of the watch balance wheel is reflected on a mirror and a flashing lamp controlled by the precise synchronous motor flashes. This makes the watch's balance wheel seem to stand still when the watch and motor have exactly the same speed. The stroboscopic effect allows the jewelers to inspect and diagnose any trouble in a watch as well as regulate its rate of time-keeping quickly and accurately.

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W. J. CROZIER

JOHN H. NORTROP

W. J. V. OSTERHOUT

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