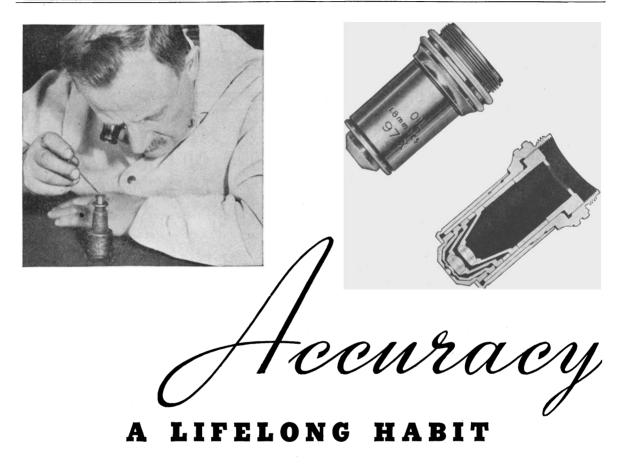
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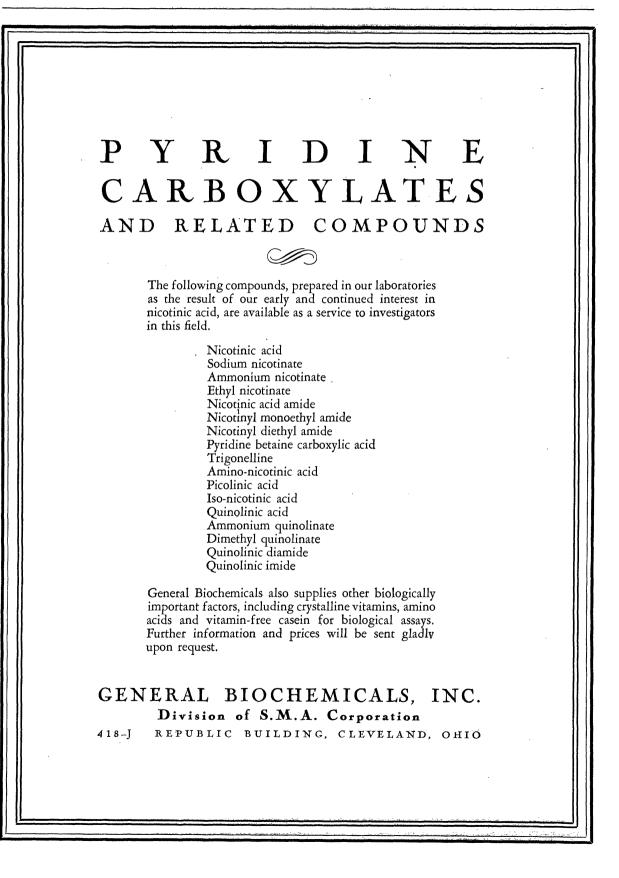
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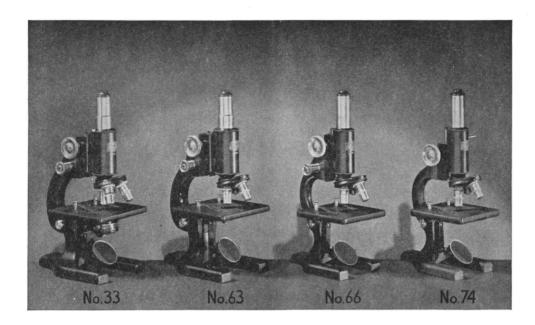
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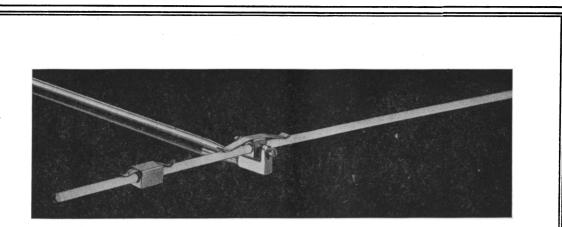
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BETTER HEALTH FOR AMERICA¹

By Dr. NATHAN B. VAN ETTEN

NEW YORK

BETTER health for America is the objective of the organized medical profession, which I have this year the honor to represent. Organized medicine is devoted to the public service and always has been in America since the first hospital was organized 188 years ago in Philadelphia for medical service to the sick poor. Today 117,000 of the physicians of the United States provide service to people of all social economic levels. These servants of the sick are on call twenty-four hours of every day.

Although the census taker insisted on recording me as working forty hours a week, there have been few days in the last fifty years in which I have not spent more than twelve hours in the service of people who asked for it. Beginning as a general practitioner with surgical training and a generous exposure to medical education, here and abroad—a fortuitous circumstance through the medium of an epidemic of typhoid fever the demands of other infectious diseases and many calls to obstetric service gradually shaped my course into the field of internal medicine. This very ordinary experience has been shared by thousands of physicians who have been making available this type of public service with considerable satisfaction to the American people.

Organized medicine has been trying for the last ninety-four years to inspire all its members, who represent 85 per cent. of the active practitioners in the United States, with high ideals and with a sense of their responsibility for good public service. It has often been obliged to censor the conduct of members who have been involved in quackery or questionable

¹ President's address before the American Medical Association at the ninety-first annual session, New York, June 11, 1940.

| | COMPARISON OF E | COMPARISON OF EGG MEMBRANES AND MOUSE LUNG AS ANTIGENS IN COMPLEMENT FIXATION TESTS | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Antigen | | | | Convalescent serum diluted | | | | | Normal serum diluted | | | |
| Normal tissue | Infected tissue | 10 per cent. susp. di- luted | | 14 | 1–8 | 1–16 | 1–32 | 1-64 | | 14 | 18 | 1–16 |
| Yolk sac C.A.–A. Mouse lung | Yolk sac No. 1 C.AA. No. 1 C.AA. No. 2 Mouse lung No. 1 | 1-161-161-81-81-81-81-81-81-8 | S.R. " " " | +++++ +++++ +++++ 0 0 0 | ++++ ++++ ++++ ++++ | ++++ ++++ ++++ ++++ | ++++ ++++ ++++ ++++ | +++ ++ ++ ++ | S.R. " " " | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 |
| Yolk sac C.A.–A. Mouse lung | Yolk sac No, 1 ". No, 2 C.AA. No, 1 ". No, 2 Mouse lung No, 2 | 1-161-81-161-81-81-81-81-81-81-8 | J.E. " " " | ++++ ++++ ++++ ++++ 0 0 0 0 | ++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ | ++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ | +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ | + + 0 0 + | J.E. " " " | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 |
| Yolk sac C.A.–A. Mouse lung | Yolk sac No. 1 "" No. 2 C.AA. No. 2 Mouse lung No. 1 "No. 2 | 1-16 1-8 1-8 1-8 1-8 1-8 1-8 1-8 1-8 | Pos.* Con. " " " " " | ++++ ++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ 0 0 0 0 | ++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ | ++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ | ++++ ++++ +++++ ++++ ++++ ++++ +++++ ++++ | +++ ++ +++ +++ +++ +++ | Neg. Con. " " " " | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 |

TABLE I

* Pos. Con. consisted of 6 pooled convalescent sera. Neg. Con.—Normal serum.
C.A.—A.—Pooled chorio-allantoic and amniotic membranes.
Test: 0.2 cc serum dilutions.
0.2 cc serum dilutions.
0.2 cc serum dilutions.
0.2 cc serum dilutions.
0.4 cc serum dilutions.
0.5 cc sensitized cells was added and the tests incubated for 30 minutes.
++++--Complete fixation.
None of the sera was anti-complementary in 1-4 dilution. None of the antigens was anti-complementary in 1-8 dilution.

tions of human convalescent serum to determine the optimal antigenic activity of each suspension. Complement fixation tests were carried out with the optimal antigenic dose of each suspension and human sera, convalescent and normal. The egg membrane and mouse lung antigens were entirely comparable in activity. Two suspensions similarly prepared from the embryos themselves were devoid of complement-fixing activity.

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A further elaboration of the studies in this preliminary report will appear in a subsequent publication.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

- International Boundaries; a BOGGS, S. WHITTEMORE. Study of Boundary Functions and Problems. Pp. xvii + 272. 7 plates. 26 figures. Columbia University Press. \$3.25.
- Bulletin Analytique; Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. Vol. I, Nos. 1-6, Janvier-Mars, 1940. Scientifique. Vol. I, Nos. 1-6, Janvier-Mars, 1940. Vol. I, Nos. 7-8, Avril, 1940. Service de Documenta-tion du C.N.R.S., Paris.
- CASIMIR, H. B. G. Magnetism and Very Low Temperatures. Pp. 93. 14 figures. Press, Macmillan. \$1.40. Cambridge University
- GAMOW, GEORGE. The Birth and Death of the Sun. Pp. xiv + 238. 60 figures. 16 plates. Viking Press. \$3.00. JACOBS, MELVILLE. Coos Myth Texts. Pp. 259. Uni-
- versity of Washington, Seattle. AULING, LINUS. The Nature of the Chemical Bond.
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- Rothamsted Experimental Station. Library Catalogue of Printed Books and Pamphlets on Agriculture Pub- between 1471 and 1840. Second edition.
 293. The Station, Harpenden, England. 15/8.
 THORNE, P. C. L. and A. M. WARD, Editors. Pp.
- FritzEphraim's Inorganic Chemistry. Third English edition. Pp. xii+911. 98 figures. Nordeman. \$8.00.
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- N MISES, RICHARD. Library of Unified Science: Kleines Lehrbuch des Positivismus; Einführung in die VON MISES, Empiristische Wissenschaftsauffassung. Pp. xii+467. University of Chicago Press. \$5.50.

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