was calculated at eight or nine quanta, each quantum being able to cause the necessary chemical change in one molecule of visual purple in the retina. Professor Hecht pointed out that "judging by the structure of the retina, the structure of light, and the chemistry of visual purple, it is hard to conceive of a biological system which could be more sensitive than this. Certainly there are no physical systems which even approach it."

Better use of the sulfa drugs in treating pneumonia and human ailments may come from laboratory studies was reported to us by Dr. George W. Raiziss, of the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. M. Severac and J. C. Moetsch, of the Dermatological Research Laboratories of the Abbott Laboratories. Sulfapyridine is a better weapon against the pneumonia germ than sulfathiazole, although the latter is less toxic. Sulfathiazole, on the other hand, gives better results in treating infection with the staphylococcus aureus, the germ commonly thought of as the cause of boils and which also causes a serious form of blood poisoning. The effect of the two sulfa drugs in Type II and Type III pneumonia infections in mice was almost equal in the first 48 hours. After 28 days, however, 28 per cent. of the mice infected with Type II pneumonia and treated with sulfapyridine survived, compared to only 3 per cent. survival of mice treated with sulfathiazole. Of the mice infected with Type III pneumonia germs, 12 per cent. survived following sulfapyridine treatment, but only 3 per cent. survived with sulfathiazole treatment.

Westinghouse Lamp Laboratories, reported that germs inherit strong or weak constitutions from their ancestors. and the strength of a germ varies according to the stage of its life cycle. During a germ's weakest moment it is eight to ten times less strong than during its most healthy period of life. This variation is considerably greater than was suspected and must be seriously considered in making tests of the efficiency of germ-killing agents. Studies of the germ-killing action of ultraviolet rays led to Dr. Rentschler's discoveries about the strength and weakness of bacteria and also shed new light on how radiation affects bacteria. Contrary to the generally accepted "single photon hit" theory, according to which bacteria are either killed or escape unscathed when subjected to lethal radiation, Dr. Rentschler found that bacteria may be injured, if not killed outright, by sublethal doses.

Dr. True W. Robinson, of the University of Illinois, reported that one of the substances that promotes growth of roots in plants was found to be effective in checking growth of one type of cancer in mice. He soaked pieces of mouse sarcoma tissue in a solution of indole-3 acetic acid, and then transplanted them into the bodies of mice. In eighteen experiments, only one piece "took," while in parallel control experiments with similar tissue not given the preliminary soaking, all 18 sarcomas grew. In other experiments, Dr. Robinson tried the effects of injecting the indole-3 acetic acid into the mice themselves. both before and after they had received implants of sarcoma tissue. These experiments also indicated that the acid has an inhibitory effect on the growth of the sarcoma.

Dr. Harvey C. Rentschler, director of research for the

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