

PEDIATRICIAN Leonard Weiner, Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, New York, administers pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine to Cherise Knighton, three. The vaccine, which is currently available for use in people at increased risk from pneumococcal pneumonia, is being evaluated for its protection potential in "high risk" children at a number of U.S. medical centers.

New vaccine fights pneumonia

SYRACUSE, N.Y., July 31, 1978 - A pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine currently being administered to people who are at increased risk from the disease, the chronically ill and those over fifty, is being evaluated for its protection potential for "high risk children" at the Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, New York.

"Among these children," said the Center's Dr. H.A. Feldman, "are those with sickle cell disease, those who have lost their spleens for various reasons, those with crippling disabilities such as cystic fibrosis and leukemia, and those undergoing immunosuppressive therapy or chemotherapy.

"Children with sickle cell disease are particularly vulnerable to infections with organisms such as the pneumococcus," Dr. Feldman point-

"The same is true," he said, "of those who have had their spleens removed because of accidents or for medical reasons. The reason for this vulnerability is unknown, but it is a well-established clinical observation. Thus, the protection offered by a vaccine at least against one group of organisms to which they are vulnerable would appear to be a very positive step in their medical management."

Early data suggest the pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine is effective in preventing pneumococcal pneumonia in children with these conditions, and the Syracuse program is one of a number of continuing clinical studies being conducted under the auspices of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Found highly effective against the bacteria that cause more than eighty percent of all pneumococcal pneumonia in the U.S., the vaccine has been in use since February in people known to be at increased risk from pneumococcal pneumonia. These groups include people over fifty (and especially over 65), and those over the age of two who suffer from chronic heart, lung, and kidney problems, and diabetes. Protection probably lasts for at least three years. As with any vaccine, side effects may occur, and only a doctor can determine whether vaccination is right for the particular individual. -

STRAAM

Engineering firms combine

Two major engineering firms, Stevens, Thompson & Runyan, Inc., and A.A. Mathews, Inc., have joined to form STRAAM Engineers, Inc., with offices in ten United States cities. STRAAM becomes the engineering company of CRS Design Associates, Inc., one of the 25 largest design firms in the U.S.

Marvin W. Runyan, P.E., formerly president of Stevens, Thompson & Runyan, Inc., has been named president of the newly formed firm with headquarters in Portland, Oregon. Other offices are in Houston, Rockville, Seattle, Milwaukee, New York, Los Angeles,



Phoenix, Atlanta, and Boise.

Representing a combined total of more than eighty years of experience, STRAAM provides a unique capability in the planning, design, and construction services for water resource and transportation projects. The firm's experience has included projects in 36 states and 25 foreign countries for a diverse clientele from both private and public sectors.

"By uniting the varied capabilities and experience of these two firms, we are now able to provide expanded services to our clients through our national system of STRAAM offices," Runyan said.

Black Eagle

by Mark Hyman

Nine years before Adolph Hitler was thought of, a Black man was inducted into the coveted Order Of The Black Eagle by German Emperor Wilheim and raised to the rank of Baron. Cuban born Bridis de Sala had swept Europe off its feet one year after the Civil War in America when, as a fourteen year-old violin virtuoso, he drew raves in London, Milan, Florence, Berlin and Rome. The Courrier of Florence told it best: "The esteemed gentleman, Bridis de Sala, is a young Negro, perfectly Black, a son of Cuba, extraordinary talent, and a sympathetic face. He speaks six or seven languages." In 1880, Bridis de Sala visited Europe again, nine years before the "Fuhrer" was born. Twenty-three years later, after Bridis died in 1911, Hitler spewed his hatred across Germany.

NAACP pushes national, local affirmative action pressure

The NAACP Symposium on the Bakke decision was held in Detroit, Michigan July 21 thru 22, 1978.

The Symposium was convened by the NAACP in response to the urgent need to assess and evaluate the meaning and scope of the Bakke decision of the United States Supreme Court and its possible implications on law and public policy, and consequences for affirmative action, according to Benjamin L. Hooks, NAACP Executive Director.

The Symposium participants included some of the most active minds in civil rights.

Immediately following the Symposium in Detroit, the NAACP National Executive Committee met in special session. The following is the plan of action - THE DETROIT MANIFESTO - to meet the Bakke Crisis for the NAACP:

1. Monitor Affirmative Action Programs in ALL communities to include ALL educational institutions and ALL agencies in every area.

2. Call upon corporate, business, labor and government leaders to PUBLICALLY REAFFIRM their commitment to Affirmative Action.

3. Mobilize and organize NAACP youth councils and college chapters to participate in "OPERATION MONITOR."

4. Organize a National Task Force to aid and evaluate trends reflected in "Operation Monitor", and to fashion appropriate means to deal with those found diluting meaningful affirmative action programs.

5. Commit NAACP legal apparatus (in cooperation with the National Bar Association, the National Conference of Black Lawyers and other committed groups of lawyers) to catalogue cases in which affirmative action programs are under attack, and to take steps to intervene and/or file "friends of the court" briefs to assure that evidentiary records exist.

6. DECLARE WAR ON EVERY ATTEMPT to weaken or destroy affirmative action and civil rights enforcement through the attachment of amendments, overtly or covertly.

7. Every branch and official of this Association and every organization committed to this cause will organize and meet with every Congressman, Governor, State Legislator, Mayor and member of city councils to state our position on affirmative action and inform them of our campaign against any and all public officials who participate in legislative or executive attempts to destroy or weaken affirmative ac-

The worthiness of every candidate, in the coming elections, shall be tested by their position on this question. The NAACP notes, with considerable consternation, the role that has been, and is being played in this rape of civil rights enforcement by so-called "liberals."

Benjamin Hooks said, "We propose to organize an old demonstration in new ways; and we are planning to march on Washington, not by the thousands, and not by the hundreds of thousands, but by the hundred, we shall be calling on our Branches, on our State Associations, and on our Regional Conferences, and on all the people who are with us, to descend on Washington like a

cloud of angels and to meet every Congressman and Senator, in their office and to tell them about Truth, Justice, Righteousness and Mortality. To make sure that they can't hide behind they 'don't know' and 'they don't understand.' We are going to insist, in Washington, if they hold offices that they hear their citizens and constituents talk to them about what we are concerned about. That is what we're going to tell them about where we stand and what we're interested in."

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