

Medical Teacher Attacks Arthritis Drug as Harmful

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
NEW YORK (UP)—A professor of medicine has figured out that 24 patients have died during the last few years after taking phenylbutazone, a drug which is widely used for arthritis and related diseases.

Dr. Edgar F. Mauer, associate clinical professor of medicine at the University of Southern California, found that 1,176 other patients have suffered distressing "side" reactions, many of them very serious and long-lasting.

Nixon Backs Strong U.S. Armed Might

OMAHA (UP)—The Eisenhower administration "will never put our desire to balance the budget ahead of our determination to maintain adequate military strength," Vice President Richard M. Nixon declared Tuesday night.

In remarks at the international Association of Fire Chiefs meeting here, the vice-president made this statement in comment on what he termed "well intentioned warnings that the United States and the free world is being lulled into a false sense of security by the recent conciliatory moves of Soviet leaders and that as a result our strength may be reduced to inadequate levels."

Nixon said the United States and the free world "are stronger today than at any time since World War II and we are strong enough to meet and defeat attack by any potential aggressor."

He said the Geneva conference has not changed the estimate of the necessary level of the free world military strength "one iota", and the estimate "will not change until we witness significant deeds as well as words in the Geneva spirit."

He listed among deeds "we would consider significant: agreement to free election and unification of Germany; agreement to armaments inspection; liberation of millions of people in satellite countries; discontinuation of their network of subversion and espionage; and dismantling the Iron Curtain."

Color Symbols Simplify Repairs

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.—(UP)—A method of simplifying auto and aircraft engine repair has resulted from research at the University of Illinois — using color identification for complicated engine parts.

Another part of the method is a "lock and key" system of designing each part so no other part is quite like it.

Prof. Lawrence Stolow, U. of I. professor who conducted the research, said the two principles could be put into practice with little change in present equipment and would save thousands of hours spent in training assemblymen, mechanics and repairmen.

PRINCETON BOSS TO QUIT
PRINCETON, N.J. (UP)—Dr. Harold W. Dodds, president of Princeton University, Tuesday announced that he will retire in June, 1957.

gether everything which has been reported concerning the drug in the medical literature. He found 26 reports. These reports covered 3,834 patients. Thus almost one-third of the total had "reactions of varying degrees of severity, from easily reversible water retention to death."

Large Toxic Potential
His points were: phenylbutazone is "chemically similar" to aminopyrine, a drug which had to be abandoned because of its "disastrous effects on the bone marrow." Phenylbutazone, too, has a large toxic potential which now is well established.

"These reactions," he continued, "do not appear to be related to dosage or duration of treatment. They may occur after the drug has been withdrawn. There are no known methods of predicting an impending reaction. At present there are no specific means of treating reactions that have appeared."

If the drug were curative, "a modicum of risk might be justified," he said. But it isn't curative—it's a pain-reliever.

Efforts to Save Women
Mauer began his investigation after participating in medical efforts to save the life of a 48-year-old woman who had been prescribed the drug for a painful knee. After 22 days of taking tablets, a rash appeared. The drug was withdrawn but within five days her symptoms put her in a hospital. And there she died 28 days after the first toxic reaction.

The highly regarded New England Journal of Medicine published his findings and commented editorially that they were "formidable." "Opposed" to them, it added, were "the claims that 57.6 per cent of patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis have remissions or 'major improvements' after using the drug."

What made Stevenson the man he really is?



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