

Gland Extract May Help Solve Mental Illness

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Nov. 7 (U)—A protein-free extract from a gland in the brain of beef cattle bring about striking changes in the behavior of chronic schizophrenics and patients with other mental ills, and shows "great promise," a Harvard Medical School researcher reported today.

Dr. Mark D. Altschule, assistant clinical professor of medicine, writing in the New England Journal of Medicine, said a constant step-up in the improvement of patients has been noted with each injection.

Harvard said the treatment shows great promise. Persons familiar with the mental illness problem noted that in the United States alone there are 300,000 schizophrenics in hospitals, requiring a great annual outlay for care.

Behavior Improved
Dr. Altschule, who also is director of internal medicine and director of research in clinical physiology at McLean Hospital, Waverly, Mass., said behavior improvement was maintained in McLean Hospital patients both during and after treatments. His report covered six years' research relating to blood chemistry.

The extract comes from the pineal gland—in beef cattle as in humans—a small, flattened cone-shaped body growing from the upper portion of the midbrain area. In cattle it has the shape and color and is about twice the size of a grain of puffed rice. Its role in the hormone system of man and the lower animals has not been established.

The pineal glands of 15 cattle are now required to produce the one gram of pineal powder which, in solution, is necessary for each daily injection.

Oral Tests Made
Although the extract has been administered at McLean by intramuscular injection, Dr. Altschule said there is hope that pills of pineal powder, to be taken by mouth, might be equally effective. Tests of the pills now are under way at McLean.

Dr. Altschule warned against premature enthusiasm and said much broader clinical studies and basic research remain to be done. Typical of the improvement seen in schizophrenics was a woman in her early 30s who had been hospitalized five years. During this time her conduct was quite irrational and her speech frequently slurred and unintelligible. While undergoing treatment, Dr. Altschule said, "she spoke sanely and coherently, expressed disgust with her appearance and asked to be sent to a beauty parlor."

The clinical improvement, Dr. Altschule said, differed from that observed when tranquilizing drugs were given. Although the latter produced changes in behavior patterns over short periods of time they did not affect the metabolic disorder found in schizophrenia.

French Near Position for A-Bomb Test

PARIS, Nov. 7 (U)—Almost unnoticed amid the sustained excitement over Soviet and American arms rivalry, France is believed to be driving quietly toward the day when she will be in a position to explode some sort of nuclear weapon.

Observers of French atomic development—and French temperament—would not be surprised to hear in the not too distant future that France has test-fired such a weapon.

This event would not be a bid to compete with the United States, Britain and Russia. It likely would be more in the nature of a shot in the arm for fading French prestige—an attempt to recapture some of the glory lost by the decline of France's empire in North Africa and Indochina.

Last October Jules Moch, former defense minister and now the French disarmament expert, said France would continue preparing fissionable materials for military use, pending a disarmament agreement. He said France would discontinue such efforts only after the other powers agreed to cease stockpiling nuclear weapons and consented to convert the weapons to peaceful uses.

This was the first public statement by a French official that France actually was engaged in military atomic development. Up to then the official word was that France was engaged in research only for peaceful use.

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