

BATTLE AGAINST FLU OUTBREAKS GAINING GROUND

Virus Tests and Development of Serum May Be Completed This Year — Virus Filterable, Invisible

By PAUL F. ELLIS (United Press Staff Correspondent)
PHILADELPHIA—(UP)—A 32-year-old University of Pennsylvania bacteriologist—Dr. Horace Pettit—who led a research expedition into an influenza-infected area of Alaska predicts that "the time may be coming" when such epidemics will be brought under control.

The immediate aim of tests now being made, according to Dr. Pettit, is to determine whether all influenza outbreaks are caused by the same filterable virus now known to science, but which have never been seen—even under the microscope, and whether protection by vaccine or serum against the virus may afford a future means of control of such epidemics.

Virus strains taken from stricken persons in influenza epidemics in Philadelphia, Puerto Rico and London are identical, research examinations have revealed.

More Proof Needed.
 "If the same virus caused the Alaskan outbreak, this will give encouragement to the effort to develop a vaccine or serum to check the progress of any future epidemic of this disease," Dr. Pettit said. He recalled the world-wide epidemic of 1918-19 which caused 21,000,000 deaths.

Dr. Pettit and his associate, Dr. D. Bergant Pepper, had a three-fold purpose in making their 11,000-mile dash to and from Alaska.

"Our first objective was to bring back some serum from convalescent patients, which we did," said Dr. Pettit. "Our second thought was to collect virus in acute cases. This we failed to do, as the epidemic had burned out when we arrived at Kotzebue. Our third objective was to test immune horse serum as a preventative and curative agent. We left about half of our supply in case of a new outbreak."

Seek to Develop Virus.
 Dr. Pettit pointed out that if it is determined that epidemics all over the world are caused by the same virus it will be necessary to determine whether this virus or the serum of persons or animals vaccinated with the virus can be used to protect other persons from the disease.

The preservation of protective material will be made "much easier" by the aid of an apparatus which was shown at the scientific exhibit of the American Medical Association in Atlantic City by Dr. Carl W. F. Flood and Stuart Mudd of the University of Pennsylvania.

Mice and Ferrets Used.
 Dr. Pettit said mice and ferrets are being used in the experiments. He said the serum collected in Alaska has been mixed with virus of other influenza epidemics. Then the animals are exposed.

If the mice or ferrets live, the scientist pointed out, science then will know that the serum of convalescents from the Alaskan epidemic protects against the virus known to have caused influenza in other places and that the Alaskan virus is probably the same as others.

Dr. Pettit said that experiments with the Alaskan serum are being made in laboratories at Johns Hopkins University, Rockefeller Institute at New York and Princeton, and in the British Medical Research Council, London.

The results may not be known for months.

CCC PRAISED FOR CITIZENSHIP AIDS

WASHINGTON, (UP)—Voluntary educational and forest improvement activities of the Civilian Conservation Corps have been described by Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the American Tree Association, as "the greatest citizenship-making program the world ever has seen."

Pack said doubling of the CCC meant that thousands of additional young Americans would participate in the program.

"The remarkable feature of the citizenship making coupled with forest improvement," he said, "is the fact that more than half of the enrollees are voluntarily attending classes of one kind or another."

"What they are learning in the woods, and there is no finer place to learn, is being added to by 'book learning' as we used to say in the night schools at the camps. The big point is that this educational activity is all voluntary on the part of the boys."

Pack said a survey showed that 43 per cent of the subjects studied were vocational. Of the balance, 18 per cent were of elementary level, 32 per cent of high school level, 5 per cent of college level, and 2 per cent general.

HARVARD CLEARING RUINS OF TEMPLE

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—(UP)—The ruins of the ancient temple of the Egyptian goddess Hathor, on the desolate mountain of Serabit el-Khadim in the Sinai peninsula, three days' camel journey from the nearest point

on the Gulf of Suez, are being cleared of debris from previous excavations.

A Harvard university expedition is conducting the work with permission of the Egyptian government. Serabit, a rocky, arid, uninhabited

butte, long has been famed for the ruins of the once large and elaborate temple and for the adjacent abandoned turquoise mines which were worked by the ancient Egyptians.

The temple was built and maintained by the ancient Egyptians solely

in connection with the mines at that point from approximately 3000 B. C. to 1500 B. C.

Be correctly corrected in an Artist Model by Ethelwyn B. Hoffmann.

Chain Letter Idea Aids Young Porker

LOVELAND, Colo.—(UP)—Now a unique form of the chain letter has hit Loveland. Money chain letters, "send-a-pint" of whiskey chains and "send-a-Packard" have started in Denver, but Loveland's chain letter here acquired a pig which they promptly dubbed "Chain Letter." They then proceeded to pass "Chain

Letter" from hand to hand. The pig, at last reports, was enjoying the hospitality of his successive owners.

Stadium Faces Busy Summer
 CLEVELAND, (UP)—Thirty-nine events, exclusive of ball games the

Cleveland Indians may play there, are scheduled for this summer in Cleveland's mammoth lake front stadium. The Indians play at League park, but some games during the season may be staged at the stadium, according to plans.

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