

Science at Work

TEN BEST SCIENCE STORIES OF YEAR SELECTED—USE OF HORMONES TOPS LIST IN ACHIEVEMENT

By Paul F. Ellis
United Press Science Editor
New York—(UP)—The use of two hormone substances, cortisone and ACTH, to bring dramatic results in the treatment of arthritis and other diseases was the outstanding story in science during 1949.

The selection of cortisone and ACTH for the "top honors" and nine others for 1949 was based on discussions between this correspondent and scientists representing all fields.

The other in the "big ten" of the year were:

2. The sighting of stars 1,000,000 light years away by the 200-inch telescope at Mount Palomar, Calif.

3. The determination that at least three types of infantile paralysis strike in this country.

4. The fight of organized medicine against compulsory health insurance plans.

5. The development of new anti-bacterial drugs.

6. The continued developments in atomic energy for military and peace-time purposes.

7. The progress in aviation, particularly military planes.

8. The use of "super" X-rays in treatment of some forms of cancer.

9. Discovery of a new sulfone drug for treatment of leprosy.

10. Development of anti-allergy drugs for use against common cold symptoms.

Cortisone Biggest News

Many medical scientists frankly say that the discovery of the effectiveness of cortisone and ACTH in arthritis was the "biggest story in medical science" since the days of Louis Pasteur, the scientist who determined that bacteria are the cause of infections.

Cortisone is made synthetically from ox bile through a long and tedious process, which science in the coming year hopes to simplify so that the new precious drug will be available to all. It is an adrenal gland derivative.

ACTH on the other hand is a derivative of the pituitary gland and is obtained from the pituitaries of the swine. It, too, is precious.

The early clinical work with cortisone and ACTH was done by medical men at the Mayo Clinic, while the production work was done by scientists at the Merck & Co., Rahway, N. J.

Only a comparatively few patients were treated in 1949, but in virtually all cases the results were "sensational."

Gives Man Look Into Universe

The dedication of the new 200-inch telescope at Palomar was one of the big stories of 1949, but it actually went to work last March.

Even with a minor defect the "big eye" pierced the universe.

United Public Workers Union Chased From CIO

Washington, Feb. 17—(UP)—The CIO today expelled the United Public Workers union on charges of following the communist party line.

This was the fourth affiliate ousted on the same grounds in the past two days. Yesterday, the CIO purged the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, the United Office and Professional Workers and the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers union.

The United Public Workers union was ousted by a 34 to 2 vote of the CIO executive after Abraham Flaxer, president of the affiliate, walked out of the board meeting.

Three Named To Serve On State Committee

Salem, Ore., Feb. 17—(UP)—Two justices of the Oregon supreme court and a Salem attorney who also is a state senator were named today to serve on the Oregon state committee, section of judicial administration, of the American Bar association.

They are Justice George Rossman, named chairman; Chief Justice Hall S. Lusk, and Sen. Alan Carson.

The appointments were telegraphed from New York by Paul de Witt, director of state committees for the bar association.

THEY LIKE FLORIDA

Tallahassee, Fla. (UP)—Seventy per cent of Florida's new school teachers come each year from other states. But new Florida-trained teachers migrate to other states.

for a thousand million light years—the farthest into space that man ever has seen. Several stars at the full power of the telescope were photographed.

Now the mirror has been made perfect and only recently scientists at the California Institute of Technology have indicated that distances even greater than the billion light years have been recorded on film.

1949 Proved Worst Year

Polio experts during the year determined definitely that there are at least three different types or groups of the virus that causes infantile paralysis. In the past, it was believed there might have been as many as 20 or more.

The new discovery is important because it gives the medical scientists fundamental knowledge of the disease, and gives them new hope that a successful human vaccine can be developed. For a vaccine to be effective, it must work against all types of the polio virus. Making a vaccine effective against 20 types would be extremely difficult—against three, the work will be easier, even though the day of a vaccine is not yet in sight.

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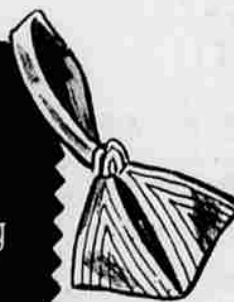
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