

1954 Achievements Renew Faith in Hopes To Wipe Out Diseases

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York (U.P.)—This year of 1954 renewed faith in science's chances of some day understanding the chemistry of the body. You can't be sure it ever will, but if and when it does, disease will disappear and people will die only when they wear out or get themselves killed in wars or automobile accidents.

When you consider the staggering mysteries of chemistry, for instance, the ever-renewing miracle of reproduction, you begin doubting that complete understanding is even possible. Yet just a little more understanding of just a little part of the whole, right now is promising to wipe out polio.

Opening Cracks
Furthermore, the body chemists or biochemists are opening cracks into the mysteries of how the billions upon billions of individual body cells maintain themselves and how the secretions of the internal glands act and interact upon the chemistry of the whole body. When these mysteries are solved, if they are, we'll be able to deal effectively with cancer.

Dr. Jonas E. Salk, father of the vaccine which was injected into some 500,000 children last spring, acquired a little more understanding of the body's immunological chemistry, the processes that make the body forever immune to certain disease-causing micro-organisms once the body has been invaded by them and has succeeded in overcoming them.

He learned that the three polio viruses don't have to be "alive" and thus be capable of causing the disease, in order to stimulate the chemistry into manufacturing and maintaining antibodies against them. He also learned that the number of antibodies to be found in the blood stream at any given time, was not a true index to whether or not the chemistry was hair-trigger.

gered to manufacture anti-bodies in wholesale lots, the instant it was challenged by one or another of the viruses.

Thus, he learned how to give seeming immunity to polio without risking the body to death or crippling by polio, and how to ready the chemistry for wholesale manufacture of antibodies to polio viruses and how to trigger the chemistry into frenzied activity. In laboratory experiments, first with monkeys, then with human beings, he demonstrated this know how rather conclusively. The mass vaccination of children is intended to prove it beyond questioning.

Immense Unknown
But like most scientists, Salk is quick to point to the immensity of what isn't known about immunological chemistry when compared to the little which is. For example, what is a virus? If it can be "killed" and yet remain enough "alive" to stimulate the making of antibodies, then was it ever alive in the sense in which we understand life? But if it was never alive, then how does it reproduce itself, sometimes in astronomical ratios?

A virus conceivably could be a chemical compound, with particular affinities and disaffinities for chemical compounds produced by the body. All this only indicates the depths of the mystery.

Nevertheless what Dr. Salk learned about polio immunology should be applicable against other viruses causing other diseases. He is at work with influenza viruses right now.

If the nature of viruses is a \$64 question, the questions of cell maintenance and glandular secretions are \$6,400,000 questions. To live and to reproduce, the cell is in the same position as the sum total of all the cells—the body. The cell must have the correct foods in the correct amounts at the right time. That goes for abnormal cells of cancer as well as for normal cells.

Dr. Laughead Still on Firm Ground as Prediction Fails For Second Time in 4 Days

Chicago—(U.P.)—Dr. Charles Laughead wouldn't have been surprised if his friends the "connoisseurs" had yanked him into outer space Friday night. But he kept his feet on the ground.

As 100 persons watched, Laughead and some fellow believers sang Christmas carols and waited to be "lifted up" from the earth.

Spirits Lifted
Laughead commented afterwards "I think maybe it was our spirits that were lifted."

If it was so, Mrs. Dorothy Martin's latest prediction came off better than did her forecast of a tidal wave last Tuesday.

Mrs. Martin, who relays "messages" from outer space to Laughead, warned Chicago that it was due for destruction. But, aside from a few snow flurries, Chicago didn't even get damp.

Friday the 53-year-old grandmother announced that she, Laughead, and any one who wanted to go along would be "lifted up" from her front lawn in suburban Oak Park at exactly 6 p.m.

Later, Mrs. Martin said she was speaking in the spiritual sense, but Laughead apparently felt he might spend Christmas in outer space.

Packed and Waiting
The ousted Michigan State College doctor said the space men, he calls them "connoisseurs," sent a message that we should be packed and waiting at 6 p.m. Christmas eve.

He admitted he couldn't be sure he would blast off because "these space boys, they're unpredictable." Laughead, Mrs. Martin and a few others turned up on the front lawn on schedule. Following the "connoisseurs' instructions, they sang Christmas carols.

Neighborhood children passed up the televised space adventures of "Captain Video" to be on hand in case the spacemen showed up.

But, as the deadline passed, Laughead said it looked like no one was coming. Maybe the crowd scared the space men away, he said.

As he returned to Mrs. Martin's home, Laughead said "as far as we know" he would spend Christmas on the earth.

"We just live from day to day," Laughead said.

Patient in Mental Hospital Climbs Tower; Gets Request

Norman, Okla.—(U.P.)—A mental patient at Central State Hospital climbed 100 feet up a water tower Saturday and demanded to see his wife and three children. He climbed down again four hours later when his family appeared.

Oklahoma Highway Patrolmen rushed the family here from Ardmore, Okla., 84 miles south, at the request of Hospital Superintendent Dr. Harold B. Whitten. Whitten refused to release the patient's full name.

Family Brought Here
The patient's wife, Mrs. Lillian King, and their three children arrived at the base of the tower in two patrol cars at 12 noon. The youngsters, two boys and a girl of 10, huddled around the mother and looked at their 40-year-old father on the catwalk high above.

"Look, we have your family here now," Whitten said. "Come on down and have Christmas dinner."

The patient stared briefly then carefully removed his glasses and pocketed them, and made a sure descent down a steel ladder.

Donnie, 10 years old, broke from his mother and ran to the father as he reached the ground. The boy and his father embraced happily.

Ritzville, Wash.—(U.P.)—The newly organized Washington Association of Wheat Growers is taking steps toward incorporation, President John Stephenson of Benge said Friday. He added that efforts to organize county units will begin early next month. The association was formed recently when the Washington Wheat League disbanded.

Christmas Tree Ignites; Two Die In Roaring Blaze

Atlanta—(U.P.)—Flames from Christmas tree lights flashed through a frame home and killed a man and his wife Friday night, firemen reported.

Earl Davis, 42, was found dead in a chair and his wife Helen, 41, died under a bed where she apparently sought refuge from the blaze, firemen said.

Investigators believed the fire was caused by an overheated Christmas tree light circuit. A neighbor told inspectors that Davis had burned the lights almost constantly for three weeks.

A box of .22 caliber cartridges that had been placed under the tree as a gift went off "like an arsenal," according to a passerby who tried to enter the flaming house before firemen reached it.

The cartridges were a gift of the Davises to their son, Ernest, 15, who was working as a delivery boy or a drug store at the time of the fire.

Passerby Saves Woman
Another passerby broke into a rear entrance of the dwelling and led the elder Davis' mother Mrs. Mae Fuller, to safety, detectives said.

J. Harris, a Negro, was credited with an attempt to save the victims. He saw the flames while walking past the house and kicked in the front door, investigators said.

"Fire jumped out at me and it sounded like a whole arsenal went off in there," Harris said.

Board of Chamber To Meet Jan. 6

An organizational meeting for the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce's new officers will be held Thursday, Jan. 6, at noon in the Medford hotel, according to Don McNeil, chamber manager.

The new meeting date has been set as the first Thursday in each month for the chamber board of directors, instead of the last Friday as in 1954.

Purpose of the first meeting in 1955 will be to crystallize chamber policies, lay out committee organization and plan immediate action for important chamber projects carried over from 1954 as uncompleted.

Officers for the coming year are John Pletsch, president; R. B. Thierolf, vice-president, and Elwood Hedberg, treasurer.

McNeil also announced a workshop session in Portland Feb. 6-8, which will be a joint meeting with Oregon and Washington chambers. The session will be geared especially for chamber officers and board members, the manager added.

U.S. Sends Gifts Behind Iron Curtain

Augusta, Ga.—(U.P.)—The United States government sent gifts of food behind the Iron Curtain Saturday.

The White House reported that four ships are expected to arrive at Iron Curtain ports this Christmas Day with food for peoples still left hungry by floods last spring.

The shipments are part of an eight and one-half million dollar program set up by the government some months ago.

The report said the ships are arriving at Settin, Poland, and Rijeka, Yugoslavia with cargoes of American wheat and corn for Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

A shipment of 203 tons of butter for Yugoslavia is scheduled to arrive before the new year.

No further action was taken on the progress report by Hogan.

In other business, the council decided to consider on Jan. 4 the condemnation of the old Barkley place on Third st. for use as a residence. Fire hazard is the main objection to the building.

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SUFFERING SPINAL AILMENT which has caused doubts he may ever walk normally again, Senator John D. Kennedy (D), Mass., is carried from New York hospital where he underwent surgery, bound for convalescence. His wife and brother are in background as he is lifted into ambulance. (International)

Santa, Helpers Find Way to Make Tot's Holiday Bright

Madison, Wis.—(U.P.)—Santa Claus had a good start Saturday toward making "everything come out all right" for 5-year-old Martina Whit, who was burned saving her baby brother from fire in the bare flat.

Dolls and toys piled up in the little Indian girl's hospital room. The gifts came in "by the bagful," nurses said.

City officials reported they would start a trust fund for Martina and her infant brother Armand, with cash contributions that poured in from coast to coast.

Pitcher Receives Unexpected Gift

Milwaukee—(U.P.)—The wife of Milwaukee Braves pitcher Lew Burdette presented him with an unexpected Christmas gift.

In fact, everybody was surprised by the suddenness, including police officers, who delivered a six-pound, 15-ounce baby for Mrs. Mary Burdette Saturday morning.

Burdette said his wife was not expecting their second child until the first week in January.

But an emergency call to suburban West Allis, Wis., police was necessary Saturday morning. The baby was born on the way to the hospital.

Thirty-three-year-old police patrolman and ambulance driver Clarence Long performed the delivery in the back of the ambulance. It was his second such performance of duty. Patrolman Harry Stobba assisted.

Burdette and police said there were no complications.

Burdette, a leading left hander on the Braves' staff, said "It was a fine Christmas present."

Progress Report Given Councilmen

Jacksonville—City Attorney Ervin Hogan reported to the city council last week that the state of Oregon has money available to purchase the city's proposed sewage bond issue at the present time, according to B. J. Christianson, city recorder.

Certain state legislation aids municipalities in sewage system development, providing funds are available.

Approximate cost of Jacksonville's new system would be \$100,000 for the line and \$60,000 for the disposal system, with possible federal aid, the recorder continued.

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Ohio Man Sends Out Cards To Repay for Early Help

By WILLIAM H. MEYERS
UP Staff Correspondent
Chicago—(U.P.)—Those "fine people in Ohio," who have been receiving a Christmas card from A. Sander for many years, are going to stay on his holiday greeting list as long as he lives.

The cards have turned up regularly each year in the Ohio Secretary of State's office. They ask the secretary to pass on to the people of the Buckeye state the greetings of "A. Sander."

Usually, the cards have borne the inscription, "God Bless America." But, except for the return address, here has been nothing to identify Sander.

Found by Reporter
Friday, a United Press reporter found the retiring greetings sender and learned why he has sent the cards and why he will continue to send them.

"A. Sander" is Anthony Sander, a 65-year-old bachelor, who lives with his sister and works in the salvage freight depot of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

"I came to this country from Krakow, Poland in 1905," Sander said. "My uncle sent me tickets from his home on the farm of Tom Humphrey near Flushing, O."

Worked in Card
"As soon as I got to Flushing I went to work in a coal mine. 'I'll never forget how good the men of Flushing were to me, a poor immigrant boy-and their wives too. There wasn't a day that the men didn't try to help make my work easier.'"

Sander left his home on the Humphrey farm after three years and came to Chicago. He worked first for the Soo line and then for the Northwestern, which has employed him more than 40 years.

"I was so grateful to the people of Ohio for being so nice to me that I always send the secretary of state a Christmas card to tell the people thanks," Sander said.

Sentence Suspended, But Watch It Brother
Spokane—(U.P.)—Police Judge Gordon Lower had the Christmas spirit Friday. He suspended sentences for all men brought before him on charges of drunkenness.

But he also warned them his Christmas spirit was short lived. If they were back before Monday, the judge said, they would go to jail.

Christmas Eve Blast Kills Eleven Persons
Parkin, Ark.—(U.P.)—A Christmas Eve party involving two Mexican farm families preparing hot tamales, ended in a kerosene stove explosion, killing 11 persons.

Five members of the tenant farm families were injured in the explosion at 10:30 p.m. 12 miles south of here.

Authorities said the Ruel Montana and Pete Santana families were firing up the stove to prepare hot tamales for their Eve celebration.

Union Official Denies Guilt in Plotted Murder

Tampa, Fla.—(U.P.)—An official of the AFL seaman's union charged Saturday that he was falsely accused of a murder plot against another official so he could be "drummed out of the union."

Ray White, union port agent here denied as "just a big smear" the charge that he instigated a plot to murder Paul Haul, of Hackensack, N.J., an opponent for the post of union secretary-treasurer.

Never Heard of Plot
White said he never heard of the alleged plot on Haul, the incumbent secretary-treasurer, until he was arrested three nights ago at the request of Hackensack authorities.

He said Haul himself had "rigged" a phony plot to discredit his charge that Haul had refused to allow "proper government authorities to investigate, port by port, our entire welfare program."

White said that under the union constitution he could not benefit from Haul's death because it would cause the forthcoming election of a secretary-treasurer to be called off, although the death would hurt his chances when the election might finally be held.

White admitted that he was acquainted with James E. Cobb, who was arrested in Hackensack two days ago as the accused gunman in the murder plot. He said he had in the past hired Cobb as a "janitor."

Cour D'Alene, Ida.—(U.P.)—Francis J. Russett, 37, Spokane, brakeman for the Milwaukee Road, was fatally injured Friday afternoon when he fell between an engine and freight car during switching operations near here.

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