

McKay in Oregon For Most of August

Portland—(U.P.)—Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay arrived in Portland last night to spend most of August in Oregon and said it would be several days after Congress adjourns before its work this session could be appraised.

McKay said there has been confusion the last week or so but he adds that it is nothing unusual. "It's just like the closing days of the Oregon legislature," he said. "I've been through them."

McKay said he thought President Eisenhower came out of the session with just about everything he asked for except school construction and the highway bill.

The secretary and his wife continued on to Salem last night.

SCIENCE AT WORK

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York—(U.P.)—To a public confused by the word "placebo," it may be comforting to know that doctors themselves are confused—as to when to, when not to, and whether to at all.

The public didn't know the work until it started being kicked around in the big Salk polio vaccine discussion. To listen to some of the doctors, they didn't know the word either.

Dr. Charles K. Hofling, of the department of psychiatry, University of Cincinnati, found that out when he questioned his colleagues about their placebos. He found them self-conscious and defensive.

He went to the "literature," meaning the vast body of medical knowledge contained in books and other papers. He thought it a "matter of some curiosity" that in the "litera-

ture" the subject is "largely ignored." If there's any mystery in this, let's end it at once. A placebo is a medicine—just any medicine. But it has little if any medical powers. The doctor prescribes it because the patient expects to be given something to take, and he's not going to feel better unless he gets it.

"Magic" Medicine The placebo, said Dr. Hofling, "is a point at which medicine appears to become magic again, and therefore such a discussion can become a source of some uneasiness and embarrassment to physicians trained in a tradition originating in 19th century scientific attitudes."

Yet, the fact is that suggestion is a powerful medicine with people of high suggestibility, and with these people a bottle of get-well pills, even if made of dough, is a high in medical suggestiveness. Therefore, Hofling said, placebos have been "in widespread and continuous use over a long period of time," even if they're not mentioned much in the literature.

He was telling a medical audience—the readers of the technical journal of the American Academy of General Practice—when to and when not to give patients placebos. His studies and his own experiences show the typical patient for whom a placebo is good medicine is:

A patient "with a chronic, nearly unmodifiable character disorder, with little or no insight and with physical complaints largely on an emotional basis. This type of patient will at once be recognized by any physician in general as comprising a considerable fraction of his case load."

When Not To By "character disorder" he referred to a manifestation—the person who won't face up to what should be pleasant news from the doctor—that there's nothing wrong with him, that he doesn't need any pills, and he might as well tolerate his good health.

When not to prescribe a placebo depends a great deal on the doctor himself. The very idea of a placebo rubs some the wrong way. To prescribe a medicine he knows won't do anything or much for a specific complaint can strike some doctors as out-and-out malpractice. Those doctors had better leave placebos alone and resign themselves to the patient who merely wants to be sick but isn't telling other people that his doctor doesn't do things for sick people.

For the patient to know he's getting a placebo isn't good. So the doctor who is irked with the patient and is going to give him just anything that is harmless in order to get rid of him, had better not. The patient's intuition is likely to make the doctor as transparent as glass.

ONE TALL DRINK Burlington, Vt. — (U.P.)—Vermont milk that goes into the marketing system would equal a tower of quart milk bottles over 100,000 miles high, according to Robert Sinclair, agricultural economist at the University of Vermont.

Newlyweds Given Special Thought By Italian Town

Merano, Italy — (U.P.) — The newlyweds, Wilhelm and Hilda Ahrend from Frankfurt, Germany, entered the hotel here and registered.

Their names were written down on a special list and kept at hand—and from that moment on they were subject to a series of little attentions they did not expect.

They had no sooner unpacked their bags when a messenger-boy rang the bell of their suite and handed them a bouquet of flowers—a compliment from the city of Merano.

Out on the street on their first honeymoon walk they were discreetly photographed. And throughout their stay they were offered free tickets for deck-chairs, rides on the cable-car to the mountain-top panorama and tickets to shows.

In fact, everywhere they went around the city, and where they were known as newlyweds, their way was made extra easy and much cheaper than for ordinary tourists.

A Tourist Boost Behind all this there is a novel plan which has made this "old-modern" city on the Italian-Austrian frontier a mecca for young lovers. The plan is no haphazard idea but has been worked out in painstaking detail with the idea of boosting tourist traffic.

In April, Merano held its "Miss Italian Wife" contest in which a young wife was chosen—not for her beauty, but for her aid and inspiration to her husband and home. From this contest came the "newlyweds treasury."

Every week the "newlyweds treasury" committee puts the names of 10 "just marrieds" in a hat and picks out one couple for a one-week free honeymoon in Merano. The couple that win can get a refund on what they have spent or stay another week completely free.

The committee demands only a few things.
1. A couple must be married no more than a month.
2. They must stay at least a week in Merano.
3. They must have proof of their marriage if a question arises.

New Process Named In Sugar Production

Chicago—(U.P.)—The first basic change in the process of extracting sugar from sugar cane in more than a century has been announced by the National Cylinder Gas Co.

The new process is described as continuous diffusion in which the cane is cut up into chips about the size of half a dollar. The chips are put into the bottom of a cylinder after they have been suspended in a portion of extracted juice.

A rotating spiral device forces the cane pieces toward the top, where hot water enters and dissolves the sugar in the cane. As the water moves down, it becomes more concentrated with sugar.

The syrup is drawn off from the bottom of the cylinder and processed in sugar refineries.

The new process differs from the current method in that sugar juice now is extracted from the cane by crushing the cane through a series of rollers under high pressure.

National Cylinder said that with the new process, an equal amount of cane can be processed more efficiently, in a fraction of the floor space and using a quarter of the power, than with the present method. It is estimated the innovation will cut production costs by more than half.

BAD TIMING New Britain, Conn. — (U.P.) — A fire, in the right place but at the wrong time, caused \$5,000 damage. The fire burned 75 tons of garbage and also badly damaged wiring at the municipal incinerator. At the time, most of the city's firemen and fire apparatus were involved in a parade.

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A. A. Walker Seated By G. H. Lions Club

Gold Hill—A. A. Walker was installed as president of the Gold Hill Lions club recently. Other officers installed included Delos Walker, first vice-president; John Cogswell, second vice-president; Neal P. Smith, secretary; and John J. Cannon, treasurer.

Harry Newnam was installed as this year's lion tamer, and Harry Smith was installed as tail twister. Directors elected recently include L. V. Tulare and Tom Carlton, each for one year, and Newnam for a two-year term.

Leland Knox of the Medford club was installing officer.

The Constitution of the United States was signed on Sept. 7, 1787.

MINNESOTA TREES

St. Paul—(U.P.)—Minnesota's forestry department estimated that between 10 and 15 million trees from state nurseries will be planted in the state this year.

About half that number go to individuals and groups for planting on privately owned land. The remainder will go on public lands.

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