

# The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*  
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### Skin Eruptions Due to Drugs

Every intelligent layman should know that when his skin breaks out badly he must stop and think.

"Have I recently started taking some drug, or have I been taking some drug in fairly large doses for a long time?" When a rash comes a person should immediately stop taking all drugs to see if, with this, the skin clears up.

I remember a man who used to go into a terrible chill, run a high fever, and have severe pains in the bones of his legs. Several able doctors studied him carefully and couldn't guess what the trouble was. When I saw him, my hunch was that it was a reaction due to the taking of some drug, but the man maintained that he wasn't taking any medicine. When I was stumped, I noted that, with some of his spells, he would get a breaking-out of his skin. I took him to an able skin specialist and said, "Do you know what these funny red circles are?" He said, "Yes, they are due to taking phenolphthalein." For years, this has been the commonest laxative used in patent preparations. Then the man admitted that he had been taking some "laxative cookies" which, according to the label, did not contain any dangerous drugs. When he stopped taking the cookies that was the end of his eruptions.

I'll never forget the woman who, once a month at her menstrual time, would go into a tremendous chill; her temperature would shoot up to 105 degrees, and for a while she would be miserable. For years no one had been able to find the cause. A little study showed that this was due to the taking of a certain often-toxic drug for her menstrual pain. During the flare-up due to the drug, the woman's white blood count dropped spectacularly, which helped me greatly in making the diagnosis. When she stopped taking the medicine, that was the end of the spells.

### Skin Can React Violently

In some persons the skin can react violently to the horse serum in certain antitoxins. The victim gets what is called a serum sickness. This can be so severe as to lay the person up for 3 weeks. Any person who is highly allergic should never be given a big shot of any antitoxin. A small drop should first be injected under the skin to see what happens.

The sulfa drugs and some of the newer antibiotics can cause skin reactions, and I have seen persons badly upset by an injection of some antibiotic. The giving of metals, such as gold or mercury or arsenic, can, sometimes cause a serious inflammation of the skin. Large areas of skin can desquamate or peel off. Sleeping drugs commonly produce skin reactions. Bromides and iodides often produce a rash

that looks like a bad acne.

### Leg Pain on Walking

An intelligent man of 55 writes saying that in short brisk walks his left leg gets to aching so much that he has to stop and take a short rest. After this, he can walk on again for some yards, and then the pain comes again. He says this trouble started a year ago. The ache or pain comes in the ankle or the calf of the leg. Recently, the toes of both feet tingle all the time, and sometimes he gets a burning sensation in his feet.

"This man describes the typical story of what we doctors call intermittent claudication. It is produced by a narrowing of one of the main arteries that supplies blood to the leg. When a man is quiet, enough blood gets through to supply the needs of the leg, but when he exercises, the leg needs much more blood—more than the artery can supply. Then comes the pain.

Unfortunately, medicine will not always relieve this condition. In some cases, the patient can be helped by an operation called a sympathectomy in which certain nerves are cut back of the upper part of the abdomen. In the worst cases, an expert on artery diseases, by injecting some radio-opaque material into the artery and x-raying it, can find just where the narrow place is. Then a surgeon may cut out this place, and transplant a segment of artery with a bore large enough to carry all the blood that is needed.

### Children Who Get Poisoned

Every year in our country more than 200,000 persons have to be rushed to a hospital because of poisoning, and many of them are children. Sometimes the doctor cannot give an antidote because he does not know what sort of poison was swallowed.

One of the worst things people do is to keep poison around the house, and another is to keep it in an unmarked glass or cup. If I ever have to buy poison or lye for some purpose, I will not keep the unused remainder; I will throw it out. All parents of children should do this. But if they feel they must keep poisons around, at least they should keep them in a locked cabinet—not the one in the bathroom—but a separate one. Only safe medicinal drugs should be kept in the medicine cabinet. Why? So that when someone gets up in the night and swallows some medicine without turning on the light, and makes a mistake, it will not be a fatal one. He may not take the sleeping tablet he wanted, but he won't get anything worse than aspirin or an antihistamine!

Dr. Alvarez hopes his readers will understand that it would be impossible for him to answer requests for information or to attempt to diagnose by mail.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1956)

Nickel, chromium, molybdenum and vanadium are used in a number of alloy steels for the purpose of making them stronger as well as tougher.



**DEMANDING MORE FREEDOM** from Russia, Wladislaw Gomułka (right), becomes new premier of Red Poland, with Marshal K. Rokossovsky, Russian-appointed defense minister ousted in "purge." (International Soundphoto)

## A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS  
United Press Feature Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—I used to think that the editors of the Old Farmer's Almanac spit on a finch, looked at the sky and told us what the weather would be for the next year.

### Nobel Chemistry Prize Shared by Two

Stockholm, Sweden—(U.P.)—Prof. Cyrill Norman Hinshelwood of Oxford University and Prof. Nikolai Nikolaevich Semenov of Moscow University were jointly awarded today the 1956 Nobel Prize for chemistry.

The Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said Hinshelwood, 59, and Semenov, 60, would each receive half of the \$38,000 prize "for their researches into the mechanism of chemical reactions."

Semenov is the first Russian to ever receive a Nobel chemistry prize.

### Beaver Farm Thrives On Whidby Island

Seattle, Wash.—(U.P.)—What is believed to be the first modern beaver farm on the Pacific coast is thriving on Whidby Island in Puget Sound.

The business was launched about a year ago by Walter E. Weston, a former restaurant operator who transplanted breeding pairs from a parent farm in Kayville, Utah.

The recent birth of three beaver kits, the first ever born to domesticated beaver in this state, increased the farm's population to 68.

According to Weston, his farm is one of only 12 privately owned beaver businesses in the world, increased the farm's population to 68.

The industry is so new that no domestic beavers have been used for pelting. But Weston figures pelts will be worth as much as \$100.

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lb. **45c**

## Ground BEEF

3 lbs. **1.00**

**Lemons**  
Nice and Juicy  
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NICE SOLID HEADS  
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**25c lb.**

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### NEWSPAPER EDITORS REPORT

"Why 9 out of 10 of all Oregon Newspapers urge the election of **DOUG MCKAY**"

• **ART STEELE**, Editor and publisher of the *Columbia Chief*.  
• **MAX SCHAFER**, Editor and co-publisher of *Salem Signal*.  
• **BERNARD MAINWARING**, Editor and publisher of *Salem Capital Journal*.  
"McKay Has Greater Future in Every Respect."  
—*Oregon Journal*

"A Record of Real Accomplishment."  
—*Salem Capital Journal*

"There Is No Finer Type of Home-Conscientious Christian Citizen."  
—*Baker Democrat*

"Put Principle Above Party and Support Doug McKay."  
—*Lincoln County Times* (Democratic paper)

FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS WHO KNOW THE FACTS

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