

Speeding of Body Chemistry During Healing Studied

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor
New York — The possibility of science learning how to shift the gears (so to speak) in the body chemistry of an injured person in order to speed the healing of his wounds has been raised by experiments with the "growth" chemical of cows in the bodies of white rats.

This chemical, a "hormone," is in abundance in the infancy and youth of all animals and people. It keeps the pertinent body chemistry geared to the business of providing chemical building blocks without which the tissues and organs could not expand in growth. When full growth is accomplished, the hormone goes into short supply and the high gear is disengaged.

Presumably these building blocks are urgently needed by wounds and the more the chemistry provides, the faster they heal. So Dr. John F. Prudden, Gentaro Nishihara, and Lourdes Ocampo of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons put it to the test.

They took 168 rats which were almost identical as to strain, age, and weight. One half of them were injected daily with cows' growth hormone and this was believed to have made them young again in stepped-up supplies of building blocks.

A long surgical wound was made along the belly of each rat. Seven days were allowed for the healing process to take its course, and then all the wounds were tested to determine the tensile strength of the new tissue which was knitting the two sides of the cuts together.

The tensile strength in the wounds of all the treated rats was greater than that in the wounds of the paired "controls." On the average it was 8.8 per cent greater which showed these wounds were healing that much faster. This the scientists took as a clear demonstration that they had shifted rat chemistry over to speedy tissue-building.

Large Doses Dangerous
At this stage, the experiment can't be tried in people because cow growth hormone seems to be inactive in them. However, Prudden and his associates, in reporting to the American College of Surgeons, said they had reason to believe that it would be active if larger doses were injected into them. Larger doses could mean peril, and they said they were still engaged in preliminary studies.

The chemistry involved is that of nutrition. It has two sides. One tears down your food into its very basic chemicals, amino acids and such. The other side takes those basic chemicals, or "building blocks," and makes new cells and tissues with them.

Growth hormone is one of the many body-regulating chemicals manufactured by the pituitary gland.

Tax Changes To Be Discussed by CPAs
Tax changes in 1958 affecting small business will be discussed at a meeting of the Salem, Eugene and Southern Oregon chapters of the Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants at the University of Oregon in Eugene Saturday.

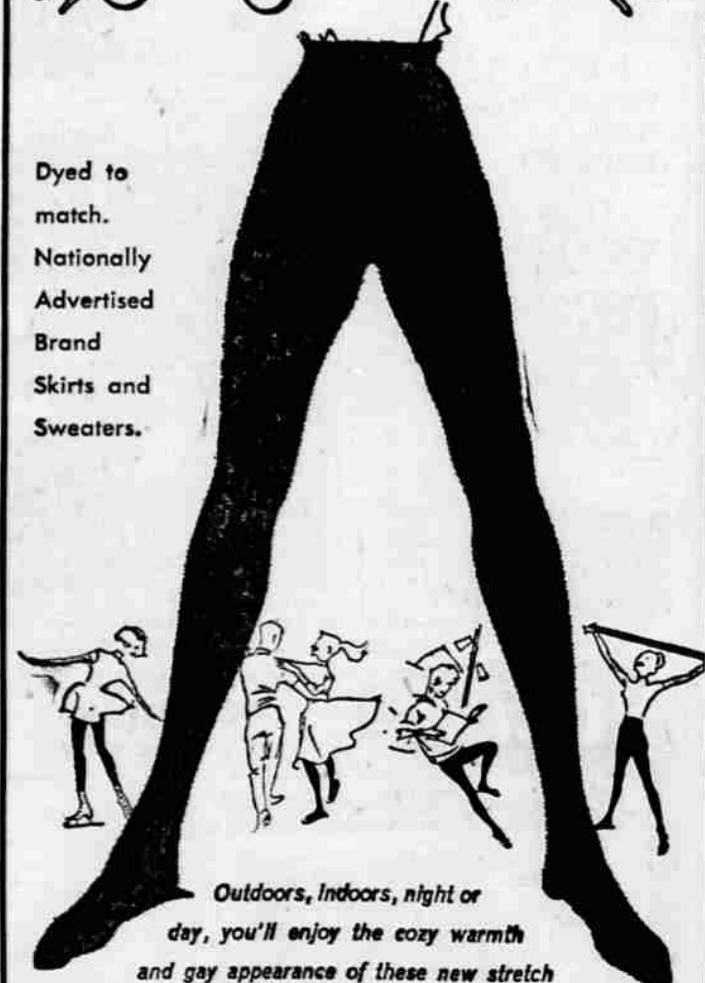
Glenn F. Schneider, CPA president of the southern Oregon chapter, said special emphasis will be given to the much-discussed election which must be made by Dec. 1 of a corporation not to be taxed as a corporation.

Salem — Oregon small forest owners met here Thursday to discuss better use of small stands of private timber.

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