

Dr. Burich Named To Society Post

Dr. Fred Burich was named president-elect of the Jackson County Medical Society at a meeting at the Rogue Valley Country club last week. The present president-elect, Dr. Florian Shasky, will assume the office for 1959.

Dr. Duane I. Gillum was named secretary-elect. Dr. B. A. Cope was elected to a two-year term as delegate to the Oregon State Medical Society from Jackson county, and Dr. M. D. McGeary, Dr. B. B. Bartels, and Dr. Eugene V. Meyerding were elected alternates.

Dr. Alvin Roberts, Central Point, was elected to a three-year term on the board of censors.

Dr. Earl L. Lawson reported on the recent ninth county medical societies Civil Defense conference in Chicago, Ill., recently.

Hosts for the meeting were Dr. O. J. Halboth, Dr. Ralph E. Hibbs and Dr. Elliott L. Harlow.

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

Emeritus Consultant in Medicine, Mayo Foundation
Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Mayo Foundation

The Present-Day Search for Drugs

As I have said in this column before, many kindly people write me suggesting cures for cancer or arthritis or something. I appreciate their desire to help, but usually I have to answer that nowadays few people have any conception of the enormous amount of work that goes into the discovery of just one valuable new drug. Streptomycin was discovered after some 10,000 samples of soil secured from places all over the world had been cultured, and the molds that were obtained, tested for antibiotic activity.

A tremendous amount of research has been done in the last 10 years in a search for a drug that will have several times the curative effect of cortisone, without its unpleasant and sometimes very harmful effects. Chemists in many big laboratories have been studying hundreds and hundreds of drugs — one after the other — and, of course, at great expense.

Recently, I read of a powerful new cortisone-like drug which is being tested by doctors all over. So far it looks hopeful. In some ways, it is many times more powerful than is hydro-cortisone. It hasn't the bad tendency to cause sodium and water to be retained in the body. The

generic name of the drug is hexadecadrol. Among the men who produced it are chemists Saret Arth and David Johnson, and Drs. William Spooner, John Fried and Dale Hoff.

Requires Great Skill
Few people realize that when a new drug is synthesized, usually only a few grains of the substance are made — just enough to test it out on some mice to see how it works. If the results are promising, then a tremendous effort has to be made to make a few pounds of the material. This is a job that requires great skill and know-how. When one starts to make a big batch, so many things can go wrong that often the material is ruined and has to be thrown out. I see that the group who did this particular job included two physicians, four biologists, 20 technical assistants, 21 organic chemists, five physical chemists, two chemical operators, There were, all told, 99 technically trained personnel with 23 foremen, and this doesn't count all the supporting administrative staff, the medical research division, with its clinical collaborators, or the personnel required later for large-scale production. It doesn't include the many physicians in this country and abroad who are studying the effect of the drug on their patients.

Not infrequently after a huge effort of this type, when the reports come in from the doctors to the effect that while some persons were spectacularly cured, some were made seriously or fatally ill, the medicine has to be withdrawn from the market, and a million dollars has to be written off as a loss.

Heart Attacks Are Not Due To Mental Strain
In a column recently I called attention to the fact, well established of late, that heart attacks are rarely brought on by strenuous exertion. Most of them come while the person is either in bed or sitting quietly.

Now, Drs. Richard E. Lee and Ralph E. Schneider of New York have reported a 5-year study of 1,083 male executives and 293 non-executives, all over 40 years of age. They found among the executives fewer with high blood pressure, fewer with hardening of the arteries and fewer with heart attacks. Just why this should be, the authors could not say. Perhaps the executives do their work with the least tension or fatigue or worry.

In Dr. Gofman's book on heart attacks (Putnam), he has laborers almost at the bottom of the list showing the incidence of heart attacks according to occupation. At the top of his list he has workers with computing machines. I often am impressed that my father, who until he was 84 lived the hardest type of life as a general practitioner, was found at autopsy to have the soft arteries of a child. Evidently hard work is not essential to the causation of arteriosclerosis.

A New Anti-Depressant
Most encouraging is the report at the recent meeting of the American Chemical Society of a new anti-depressant drug which sounds very hopeful. Its code name is J. B. 516. It was described by Drs. J.H. Eiel and Alexander Drukker of Milwaukee. A drug that could lift people out of a psychotic depression would be of tremendous value to mankind.

Dr. Alvarez's new booklet on Arthritis and Rheumatism may be obtained by sending 25 cents and a large, stamped, self-addressed, envelope with your request to Dr. Walter Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

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

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1958)

New York—UP—Sherried chicken a la king or creamed dried beef make good toppings for these tangy Texas pancakes.

Beat 2 eggs, add 3 tablespoons prepared mustard, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1 cup of milk, and mix well. Add liquid to 3/4 cup pancake mix, stir in 3 tablespoons melted butter or margarine, and bake on hot griddle. Makes 3 thin pancakes 8 inches in diameter.

The deepest oil well ever drilled in Texas went down 21,687 feet on University of Texas land in Pecos County. The drilling was done in 1957 at a cost of 1.2 million dollars, but it was a dry hole.

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The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and associations.

Mary S. — I am 19 and have been married two years. I have two babies — one by my husband and the other born out of wedlock just before I met my husband.

I didn't hide anything about my past when I got married. My husband knew about the baby and said he would be a father to her. But now that we are married he seems to resent this child. He shows favoritism toward his own son and constantly blames me for spending time with my daughter.

Tom wants me to give my daughter up for adoption. But I hate to do that because I love the baby and was brought up by foster parents myself. I always felt that parents should bring up their own children, even if it's hard.

Tom S. — It's true that I said that I'd be a father to Mary's baby, but I couldn't tell then how I'd feel and she'd act. I can't help feeling more for my own son than for the girl. Mary watches me all the time and if she sees that I hold the boy for maybe one more second than the girl, she'll come down on me like a ton of bricks.

We have been having a lot of fights about this and the little girl is getting old enough to understand. It will be worse for her when she gets older. I do have some affection for the little girl and I am just as concerned about her future as Mary is. What is the use of keeping her if we can't make her happy? Mary should make a sacrifice for her sake.

The Council: From both Mary's and Tom's statement, we gather that Mary's real problem is with herself, rather than her child.

Tom claims affection and concern for this child. The mere fact that he was at one time willing to undertake the responsibility to bring her up indicates that his feelings are

Decline Seen in Nov. Building

Portland — November building in the Pacific northwest's 64 largest cities showed a general decline from October, but still was 37 per cent more than November, 1957, according to the statistical department of Equitable Savings and Loan association.

Oregon showed a 43 per cent drop from October, but reported a 78 per cent increase over November, 1957, the association noted.

Total value of building permits issued in Ashland last month was \$74,150, an increase of 70 per cent over October's figure of \$43,600, and a 267 per cent increase over last November. The value of permits for dwellings in Ashland last month was \$40,000, compared to October's total value of \$28,000, the association reported.

Value of building permits issued in Medford during November was \$349,750, 69 per cent below October's total value of \$1,129,821, and 36 per cent more than November, 1957, when the value was \$257,805. Dwelling permits in Medford totaled \$186,600 last month, a decrease of 14 per cent from October's \$217,711 value, and 51 per cent greater than November, 1957, when the valuation was \$123,500.

Bristol County, Rhode Island, and Bristol County, Massachusetts, are believed to be the only counties sharing the same name that also border on each other in the U.S.

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By CLAY R. POLLAN

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To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES	MAR 21-20	1 Wonderful	31 A	61 Army	NOV 23
Taurus	APR 21-20	2 Make	32 To	62 Always	DEC 23
Gemini	MAY 21-20	3 Double	33 To	63 Today	JAN 23
Cancer	JUNE 21-20	4 Be	34 To	64 Visit	FEB 23
Leo	JULY 21-20	5 Two	35 Things	65 Lose	MAR 23
Virgo	AUG 21-20	6 Check	36 Should	66 Today	APR 23
Libra	SEP 21-20	7 Luck	37 Will	67 A	MAY 23
Scorpio	OCT 21-20	8 Budget	38 Tip-top	68 Better	JUN 23
Sagittarius	NOV 21-20	9 Heads	39 Allow	69 Emotions	JUL 23
Capricorn	DEC 21-20	10 Could	40 Straighten	70 To	AUG 23
Aquarius	JAN 21-20	11 Some	41 You	71 You	SEP 23
Pisces	FEB 21-20	12 You're	42 Today	72 Well	OCT 23
		13 Reach	43 Security	73 Well	NOV 23
		14 Adjustments	44 Feelings	74 On	DEC 23
		15 An	45 Out	75 Stand	JAN 24
		16 Urgent	46 Needs	76 Go	FEB 24
		17 Today's	47 Could	77 And	MAR 24
		18 Work	48 Your	78 Stand	APR 24
		19 Impressions	49 Shape	79 Ahead	MAY 24
		20 Developments	50 Or	80 Make	JUN 24
		21 Speak	51 Today	81 Then	JUL 24
		22 Before	52 High	82 Trips	AUG 24
		23 Don't	53 If	83 Overwhelm	SEP 24
		24 Cently	54 Not	84 One	OCT 24
		25 Day	55 Point	85 One	NOV 24
		26 In	56 Matters	86 Confidently	DEC 24
		27 Taking	57 See	87 Po	JAN 25
		28 Early	58 Attention	88 Winning	FEB 25
		29 Air	59 Entertain	89 Of	MAR 25
		30 Are	60 Pretty	90 Side	APR 25
				12/14	MAY 25
					JUN 25
					JUL 25
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					SEP 25
					OCT 25
					NOV 25
					DEC 25

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