

### Withdrawal of Antibiotics Cures Disease

Atlantic City, N.J. (Science Service)—The use of antibiotics appears to be the cause of numerous cases of a fatal disease usually considered to be a rarity, a Cleveland surgeon reported here.

The disease is staphylococcal enterocolitis. Symptoms of the disease include vomiting, abdominal pain and severe diarrhea. It is caused by a specific organism which normal microorganisms, or flora in the intestines can usually overcome. The Huron Road Hospital of Cleveland, Ohio, seldom has more than three cases in five years, Dr. Robert T. Murphy explained to colleagues attending the meeting of the American College of Surgeons here.

**Patients Have Diarrhea**  
Since October, 1958, through July, 1959, however, 431 patients exhibited diarrhea. The majority of these acquired the diarrhea after entering the hospital, Dr. Murphy pointed out.

The staphylococcus was identified in 61 cases. Most of these patients had been receiving antibiotics at the time they entered the hospital. The most frequently used were penicillin and streptomycin.

The mortality rate among these patients was 33 per cent, with 20 deaths in 61 cases. Both Dr. Murphy and his co-partner, Dr. David Samon agreed that at least 15 of these were due to enterocolitis. Death is caused by dehydration, tremendous losses of salt and water, similar to the losses from cholera.

**Taken off Antibiotics**

Now any patient suspected of harboring the fatal organism is immediately taken off antibiotics, which destroy the normal bacteria needed in the intestine. The natural environment of the intestine is restored by administering fluids that contain these bacteria. Those patients who must be kept on antibiotics due to their original disease are given acidophilous milk. This treatment has reduced the number of cases to zero, Dr. Murphy said. He also added that this disease is probably a problem in all hospitals at this time.

### Radio 'Ear' To Hear Sun's Voice

Ann Arbor, Mich. (Science Service)—An 85-foot, steerable electronic "ear" is now ready to eavesdrop on the radio voice of the sun.

The University of Michigan dedicated the keenly sensitive radio telescope, built with support of the Office of Naval Research, at its Peach Mountain radio astronomy facility northwest of here.

The largest such telescope in the world designed for solar research, it will permit the first comprehensive study of radio emissions from the sun, particularly weak bursts of radio frequency noise that often accompany solar flares. Radio observations will be fitted in with optical observations made at the University's McMath-Hulbert Observatory.

The parabolic antenna, weighing 155 tons, can track the sun from sunrise to sunset. It also can listen to radio noise coming from galaxies millions of miles away, and tune in radio frequencies of 21- and three-centimeter wavelengths.

The secret of this new instrument is its newly developed broad-band traveling-wave tube radiometer that is said to deliver ten times better performance than other similar receivers.

### Birthdays Shared With Children

Buffalo, N.Y. (UPI)—Jacob A. Smith, owner of a furniture store, likes to share his birthdays with children . . . lots of them.

On his 57th birthday, he held his fourth annual birthday party in front of the store for nearly 300 children who played with balloons, rode merry-go-rounds and devoured ice cream, lollipops and soft drinks dispensed by their host.

Smiling happily as he talked about the affair, Smith said the party keeps the youngsters off the street and gives them a chance to "raise the dickens" under supervision.

"I give them a little talk on how important it is to behave themselves, too," he said. "Harsh words to the kids years ago didn't help much. I've found this is better."

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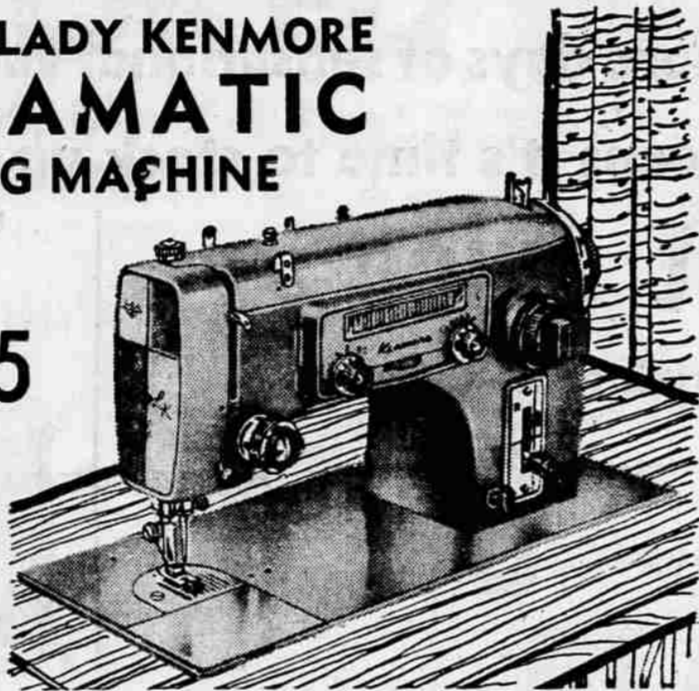
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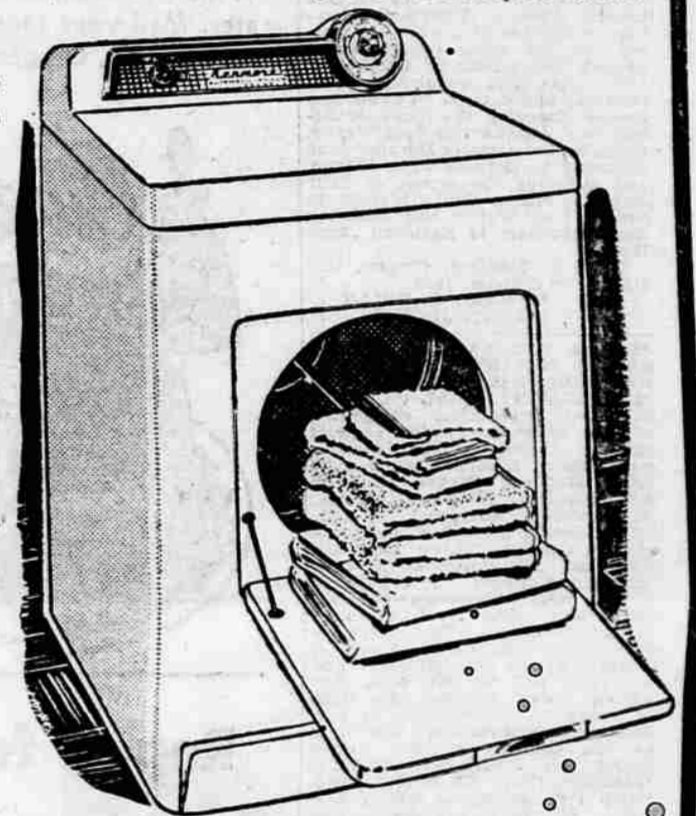
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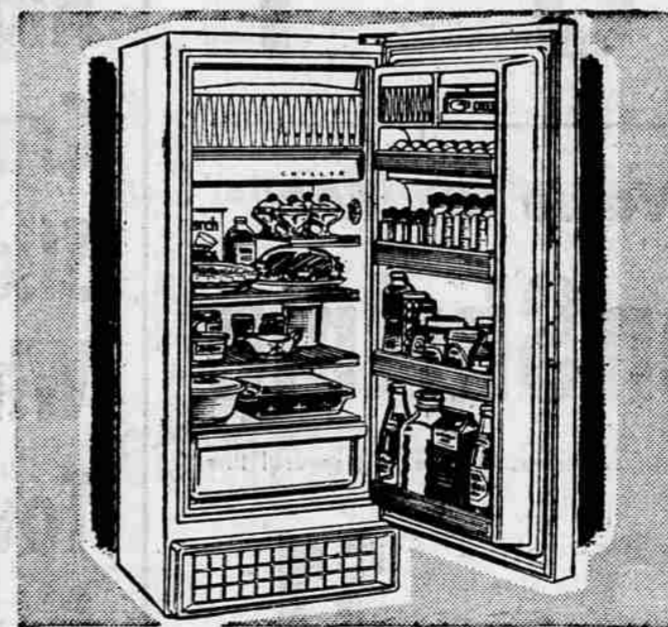
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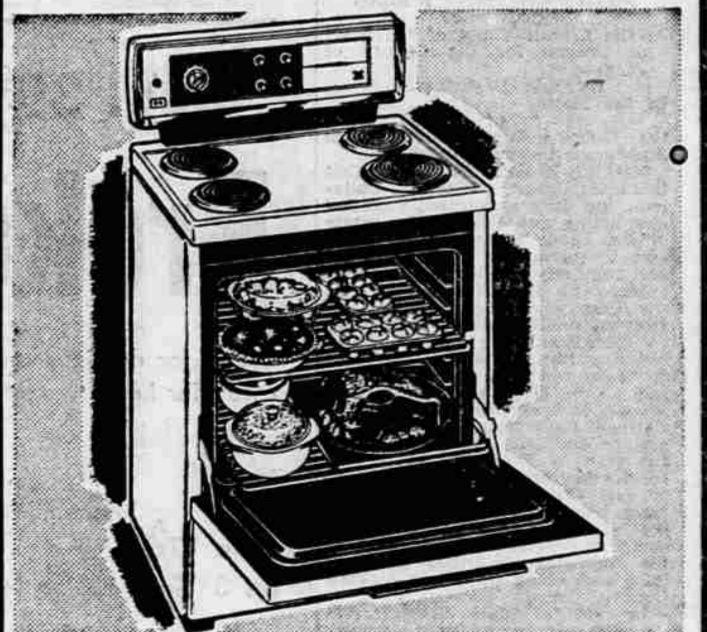
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