

Rous Virus of Chickens Found To Be Contagious

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor

New York — (UPI) — After 48 years of believing a particular cancer virus was strictly non-contagious, science is now confronted with the flat proof that it is contagious. This is the celebrated Rous virus which was one of the first to be identified as a cancer-causer. It is a virus of chickens. There is no reason for human beings to worry because of this change in its status.

But the change brings a little more light to the cloudy subject of viruses and cancers, and it's a subject newly pertinent to people. Only this year viruses have been directly implicated in human cancer.

Obviously cancer viruses don't get around like ordinary viruses. If they did, science now would know much more about them than it does. In 1912, soon after its discovery by Dr. Francis Peyton Rous of the Rockefeller Institute, the Rous virus was subjected to what seemed an acid test for contagiousness.

Accept Test As Proof
Chickens were fed tissues infested with the virus. They mingled freely with chickens which actually bore the tumors caused by the virus. These chickens were believed to be susceptible, yet not one

of them came down with cancer. This was the proof which had been accepted as final ever since.

It now has been canceled by Drs. B. R. Burmester, A. K. Fontes, and W. G. Walter of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Poultry Research Laboratory at East Lansing, Mich. They worked with a highly inbred line of white leghorns known to be most susceptible to the virus.

They inoculated 404 9-day-old chicks of this line with the virus, and they were reared in the same pens with approximately the same number of chicks who at the start had no viruses in them.

In 14 to 100 days, 56 to 94 per cent of the inoculated chickens were dead of cancer. The time it took for the viruses to kill them depended upon how much virus had been put into them and whether it was injected in veins or under the skin.

Transmission by Contact

Of their uninoculated penmates 5 to 78 per cent were dead of cancer within 37 to 185 days. The scientists said the viruses evidently had to build up to a critical but unknown number in their original hosts before they could be transmitted.

They were sure the transmission was by contact because they constructed a two-compartment pen divided by double chicken-wire three-quarters of an inch apart. This prevented physical contact between chickens in the

two compartments but did not prevent close proximity.

Fifty chicks inoculated with virus were put in one compartment. Within 25 days 47 of the 50 were dead of cancer. Fifty uninoculated chicks were put in the other compartment. Not one came down with cancer, and this seemed to show that the virus could not be airborne.

In reporting their results to the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md., the scientists said frankly they did not understand why they were the first to prove the Rous cancer can be contagious by contact. Of course, they added, "the biological characteristics" of the Rous virus "can and do change."

But "the apparent acquisition of contagiousness may be due simply to an increase in the concentration of the virus," they added.

RECEPTION INFORMAL

London — (UPI) — Guests at a London lunch Tuesday were told about the broadcasting bloopers a radio commentator made during the Nigerian royal tour of Princess Alexandra. When the princess arrived at the palace the excited announcer said: "Now the princess is going into the palace to take off her clothes for the reception."

ART CRITIC DIES

Paris — (UPI) — Andre Warnod, 75, respected art critic for the newspaper Figaro since 1934, died Monday.

Back Stairs: White House Rose Garden

By FRANK ELEAZER

Washington — (UPI) — Back stairs at the White House: Through the White House rose garden each day pass some of the most distinguished feet on earth.

The garden occupies a sheltered part of the White House estate just outside the President's office. President Eisenhower uses its grassed central area as a handy and impressive place to meet and talk to visitors who arrive in groups too large to handle inside.

He doesn't have to tend the lawn and garden himself, of course. The White House employs a domestic force of 72 persons, including a staff of expert gardeners.

So what has plagued this celebrated piece of White House turf in recent months? Plain old crab grass, looking its worst.

Fortunately few of Ike's rose garden visitors ever look down. They are too busy being awed to ponder the inevitability of crab grass.

They see Eisenhower at his best in the rose garden. He emerges beaming from the White House and waves his greeting. Then, standing on the pillared portico outside his office, he generally makes a 5 or 10 minute speech, off the cuff and tending to ramble.

He talks about freedom, the American dream, his hopes for the future. Then he steps smiling down to the grass to mingle for a few moments, shake a few hands, and give his guests a chance to get their pictures taken at his side.

He grins again and waves again and strides back to his office.

The guests applaud and always go away thrilled. Later, when reporters start looking over their notes on just what prompted all the enthusiasm, they usually find that Ike really hasn't said very much, or at least that he hasn't said very much to make news.

They say you can't get charm into a bulletin. Other White House visitors, those who are received in the President's big oval office, recently have been getting a not-very-subtle reminder that

even the best loved and most charming of presidents requires a lot of protection. The first thing they see as they enter the lobby is a four foot high golden trophy for marksmanship won in June by the White House police pistol team.

The previous winner was the U.S. Border Patrol. The trophy dominates a huge round table that is the central piece of furniture in the lobby. It features a policeman's figure, with pistol in outstretched hand.

The policeman stands on a loving cup which in turn surmounts a four-column pedestal enclosing a rearing horse.

This is presumably a young horse. And for those who don't catch the commercial from that subtle hint, the name of the prominent gunmaker, who gave the award, is also included.

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GRANDSON FOR BING — Lindsay Crosby and his wife, Barbara, pose with their son, David Lindsay Crosby, the third grandson for Singer Bing Crosby. The boy is six weeks old. (UPI Telephoto)

Kitchen To Be Furnished With Trading Stamp Gifts

Eagle Point — Eagle Point, White City, Shady Cove and Elk Trail residents have been asked to help furnish the kitchen of the new Community building in Eagle Point.

An effort is being made to procure most of the kitchen furnishings through gifts awarded by trading stamp and coupon companies.

All interested citizens are asked to save and share trading stamps and coupons of all types received with purchases of merchandise. Officials say that nothing will be turned down.

Containers have been placed in stores throughout the area for stamp and coupon donations. Envelopes will be distributed to housewives for storage of stamps.

Mrs. Virgil Hayes and Mrs. Calvin Clayton of Reese Creek are co-chairman of the project. Further information may be obtained by contacting either of these ladies.

RAPS COVER-UP

San Bernardino, Calif. — (UPI) — The movie reviewer of the Nudesetter, monthly publication of the Oakdale nudist camp, liked the film "The Nudist Story," but had one reservation.

"From a nudist's standpoint, only detracting portion of this feature is the constant appearance of men in shorts and women so obviously carrying towels in front of themselves," the critic wrote.

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