

The Synapse

U.C. Medical Center

San Francisco, 22

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TRACHOMA VIRUS ISOLATED HERE

The first isolation of an American trachoma virus was reported by investigators at the University of California Medical Center.

New techniques for isolating and culturing the virus of trachoma are permitting new approaches to eradication of this disease, an often-blinding eye infection from which an estimated 400 million people now suffer. It is widespread among American Indians and in underdeveloped countries.

Until recently, research on trachoma was hampered by inability to preserve or grow the virus outside the patient. Now, it is hoped, study of various trachoma virus strains will lead to practical vaccines and improved diagnosis; disclose possible relationships between trachoma and other infections; and help explain differences in frequency and severity of the disease in different parts of the world.

Strains of trachoma virus from at least four widely separated regions of the world are now being grown and studied by investigators at U.C. and elsewhere (The U.C. group has just begun culturing a strain from a patient who apparently acquired trachoma in yet a fifth area, Pakistan).

Studies of the American strain, isolated from a patient in the Bay Area (where trachoma is infrequent), was reported to the Western Section of the American Association for Research in Ophthalmology, which held its annual meeting at the U.C. Medical Center. The work was also described in the *Journal of Science*.

The Medical Center investigators are Miss Lavelle Hanna, graduate research microbiologist; Dr. Phillips Thygeson, professor of ophthalmology and director of the Francis I. Proctor Foundation for Research in Ophthalmology; Dr. Chandler Dawson, research fellow in the Proctor Foundation and an epidemic intelligence officer in the U.S. Public Health Service; and Dr. Ernest Jawetz, professor of microbiology.

Eye scrapings from the Bay Area patient, a 36-year-old man who had had trachoma

PERMANENT ELECTRIC PACEMAKER

A permanent electronic pacemaker, about the size of a paperback novel, is successfully controlling the heartbeat of a 37 year old Walnut Creek tool and die maker, who underwent surgery for its installation August 24, at the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. He is doing well and will soon return to work.

He is the first patient on the Pacific Coast, and the fourth in the United States, to have a permanent pacemaker electrode attached directly to the heart muscle.

The patient, Mr. Kenneth Chandler, entered the H.C. Moffitt Hospital July 26 in critical condition with complete heart block. This is a condition in which the atria (or filling chambers) and the ventricles (or pumping chambers) of the heart lose their normal synchronized rhythm and beat erratically and independently.

Mr. Chandler's illness and treatment were described by Dr. William L. Weirich, assistant professor of surgery and Markle Scholar, at the annual meeting of the Howard C. Naffziger Surgical Society at the Medical Center.

The patient had developed heart block—in this case, his physicians believe, as an aftermath of rheumatic fever—about two years ago. He had become progressively worse, and had developed resistance to the drugs commonly used to control heart block. A brother died of the same condition in his twenties.

On admission to U.C. Medical Center, his pulse was dipping as low as ten beats per minute and frequently was stopping entirely. The resulting decrease in blood supply to the body had made even limited activity impossible; cardiac standstill was becoming more frequent, and the patient often lost consciousness.

(Many patients with heart block are not

affected this severely, U.C. physicians pointed out, and only a few are candidates for pacemakers. Some are able to remain active without treatment. In some others, the condition is controlled by drugs.)

Mr. Chandler underwent surgery for installation of the pacemaker on August 24. A bipolar electrode—two thumbtack-like stainless steel prongs projecting from a small block of plastic—was sewn into place against the wall of the heart. Plastic-coated wires leading from the electrode out through the chest incision, were attached to the pacemaker.

The pacemaker itself is worn on a belt around the waist. About one by four by five inches in size, it is transistorized and is powered by a mercury cell battery. It delivers an electrical stimulus to the heart about 60 times a minute, maintaining a firm and regular pulse.

Mr. Chandler left the hospital October 2 and is now convalescing at home. It is expected that he will be able to return to work in about two weeks, and that, while he must avoid heavy physical exercise, he can continue to lead a normally active life with a few restrictions.

Mr. Chandler lives with his wife and three children at 918 Hawthorne Drive, Walnut Creek.

Several electronic mechanisms to maintain heart rhythm have been developed during the past five years, chiefly for temporary use during and after open heart surgery. The type of permanent pacemaker worn by Mr. Chandler differs from others in several respects.

The electrode is sewn directly to the Heart muscle, rather than (as in some patients) being inserted in an arm vein and pushed along the blood vessels until it touches the heart, in contrast to so-called external pacemakers, with which the heart is stimulated through the chest wall by means of skin contacts, imbedding an electrode directly in the heart muscle, permits use of very low voltages which do not cause the patient any discomfort.

Dr. Weirich, in 1956, developed the first such mechanism that could be attached directly to the heart muscle. His work, done at the University of Minnesota while he was on leave from the U.C. Medical Center, was designed to control heart block that occurs in open heart cardiac operations. Heart block occurs in about 10 per cent of open

heart operations and formerly was almost always a fatal complication.

Permanent electrodes like that worn by Mr. Chandler are modifications of the type developed in 1956.

* * *

(Trachoma . . . Cont'd from page 1)

symptoms for five weeks, were placed in a standard culture medium containing an antibiotic to kill contaminating bacteria. After being kept for an hour at near-freezing temperature, the scrapings were injected in the yolk sacs of fertilized chicken eggs. In succeeding passages from egg to egg, the virus "took" with increasing ease and now multiplies rapidly and readily. It causes a trachoma-like eye inflammation in monkeys.

The Bay Area virus resembles those cultured within the past two years by investigators elsewhere from patients in China, Saudi Arabia, and Gambia (a British protectorate in West Africa).

Microscopic examination and tests in blood serum show that these viruses all belong to the psittacosis - lymphogranuloma venereum group of organisms. These disease agents are considered by some investigators to belong in a class by themselves rather than with the true viruses. Unlike other viruses, they are large enough to be seen under a light microscope, and they are susceptible to certain antibiotics.

Several research groups are collaborating informally on studies of trachoma viruses. These include teams at U.C., Harvard, the U.S. Navy Hospital at Bethesda, Md., and groups in London and Japan. They are exchanging virus cultures and experimental data. Researchers in Communist China, who cultured a trachoma virus in 1957, are not currently in touch with Western scientists, but the London group is working with specimens of their virus strain.

Availability of trachoma virus cultures offers at least two new approaches to possible control of the disease:

1. *It may permit development of blood tests for trachoma. This would simplify diagnosis, as early trachoma often resembles other eye diseases.*

2. *It opens the possibility of a preventive vaccine. While antibiotics can cure the infection, considerable eye damage often takes place before treatment begins. Moreover, treatment facilities are scarce in many countries. A vaccine could break the*

chain of transmission in populations where the disease is common.

Other questions under investigation include these: 1) How closely are the various strains of trachoma virus related to one another? 2) Are virus differences or other factors responsible for the fact that trachoma in the Middle East, for example, is usually more severe than in the United States? 3) What toxic materials do the viruses produce? 4) Is trachoma related to similar diseases, such as inclusion blenorrhea, an occasional acute eye disease of the newborn?

Trachoma is now an uncommon disease among the white population in the United States, but is an important public health problem among the Indians of the Southwest. Dr. Thygeson, a consultant to the Division of Indian Health and author of a recent manual on diagnosis and treatment of trachoma, has long been interested in improved case-finding, treatment and prevention.

The U.C. studies were supported in part by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.



GRADUATE STUDENT STARS IN HOCKEY MEET:

Pushkar N. Kaul of India, a graduate student working on the pharmaceutical chemistry staff of the Pharmacy School, recently represented the United States National Team in the International Field Hockey Festival held at Rye, New York.

Participating in the Festival tournament were teams from Argentina, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States.

Kaul, for his part in leading the United States into the final round, in which it was narrowly defeated by Argentina, was selected as the best individual performer in the tournament.

Kaul and Rachpal Bal, a sophomore student at the Berkeley campus of U.C., have organized field hockey games in the San Francisco bay area since the summer of 1958. Both have had extensive experience in competitive hockey in India and Hong Kong.



SENIOR PHARMACY STUDENTS TAKE ANNUAL TRIP TO EAST:

The annual trip taken by the senior pharmacy class was planned with Harry Avila and Howard Strauss in charge of making all arrangements.

The annual trip is taken each year between the Fall and Spring semesters and this year took the class to Chicago and surrounding cities where they were the guests of many of the leading manufacturers of pharmaceutical products.

Each manufacturing company hosted the class in the respective city in which their laboratories are located. A tour of the laboratories was conducted by each company. Banquets and entertainment of various sorts were also enjoyed by the class.

The itinerary for this year's trip was as follows:

Monday, January 25, Abbott Laboratories in Chicago.

Wednesday, January 27, Parke-Davis Company in Detroit.

Friday, January 29, Free Day.

Saturday, January 30, Eli Lilly Company in Indianapolis.

Wednesday, February 3, Depart for San Francisco.

Those taking the trip were: Professor and Mrs. Dean, Vince Blake, Bill Blumenstock, Ellen Brown, Wiley Chan, Miriam Fukami, Jo Ann Haight, Yosh Ikeda, Bob Ja, Henry Jue, Menlo Kawakami, Jed Lea, Mr. and Mrs. George Pennebaker, Gary and Joyce McCown, Dennis Norrby, Howard Strauss, Dennis Tom, Reynold Tom, Dennis Wong, and Dr. Hideo Takanaka.



FIFTH AVENUE
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CHOICE MEATS

From the Desk of the Union Director

I am informed by Editor Geller that, in view of finals and the end of the semester, there will not be another issue of the paper for approximately six weeks. Accordingly, I would attempt to be as thorough and inclusive as possible in this particular issue.

ART EXHIBITS:

Following Dr. Mardi Horowitz's highly successful "*one-man*" show, the Union Fine Arts Committee will present "*People, Places, and Pleasures*," an exhibit loaned to us by the Curtis Publishing Company. The show consists of twenty-four original color photographs used at various times in "*Holiday*" Magazine, and will be on display between January 20 and February 20. In store, and during the dates of February 26 through March 18, are the *Hallmark Honor Prize Paintings*. We hope that the exhibits to date have created interest among Union members, and we are open to your comments concerning past and future shows.

MUSIC ROOM:

During the Christmas recess, missing parts for the stereophonic unit were replaced and since that time the Music Room has been in *full operation*. Although the Union's present record library is small, some quality selections were donated by Miss Helen Myers and we are optimistic about increasing the size of the collection in the very near future.

In order to coordinate the use of the piano and Ampex unit in the same area, a *Music Room Policy* has been established and is now in effect. Questions or comments concerning the use of the room are encouraged.

CONTESTS:

Last year we conducted a "*Room Naming Contest*," which was left *banging* for several reasons. The need for more colorful and descriptive names of Union rooms and areas is still evident, and this contest will be re-activated in the very near future.

A second contest coming up will deal with competition in photography, with special and interesting prizes to be awarded. Watch the Union bulletin boards for special details.

USE OF LOUNGE AREAS:

Periodically, a serious problem crops up with regard to people eating or drinking in first floor lounge areas. Thus far, the Board of Governors has intentionally hesitated to issue a set of "*House Rules*," and has instructed me to minimize, in so far as possible, the number of signs pertaining to any such rules.

However, despite the fact that "*Brown Baggers*" may use the cafeteria in the Union, we still have individuals persisting to eat in non-food service areas.

I hope that I can solicit the cooperation of all Union members in doing whatever is necessary to eliminate this problem. Such cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

SECOND SEMESTER ACTIVITIES:

We are hopeful that during the time of registration, we will be able to distribute a second semester "*Union Activities Calendar*" to every student enrolling.

In addition to the art exhibits and film programs (a separate film schedule will be passed out), Union committees and staff members have planned a broad array of interesting programs for the Spring months.

In addition to the established and popular events held this year and last, several new activities have been lined up, which we think you will especially enjoy.

Shattered Shoestring?

GET LACED

at

BEAR'S WARES

on the

Millberry Union Courtyard

ADMISSIONS STATEMENT

By: President Clark Kerr

There has recently been some misunderstanding concerning University of California admission requirements, and I would like to clarify the University's position on this matter.

It is often reported that the University accepts the top 15 per cent of high school graduates. The Master Plan for higher education recently adopted by the University and the State Board of Education recommends a 12.5 percentage. Certainly this does not represent a drastic change.

Furthermore, it should be explained that the University does not actually accept students on the basis of percentages. These figures represent only the results of statistical analysis which are conducted after students are admitted. This admission is and will continue to be based on a student's academic performance in high school or other educational institution.

For many years the University has used a "B" average in specified academic subjects as the principal basis for admission.

The Master Plan does not question this requirement. There has been no suggestion that the University limit itself to "A" students; such an action would certainly be overly restrictive and a disservice to the people of California.

Exact methods of complying with the Master Plan suggestion will be recommended by the University Board of Admissions after a great deal of study. I do not anticipate that the "B" average requirement will be modified since, of all methods for admission, this has proved to be the best criterion for success in the University. I think that changes are more likely to occur in some alternative methods of admission. These changes, together with the use of aptitude tests now under study, should allow us to meet our obligations without penalty to students making a "B" average in high school.

Over the years there has been, and will continue to be, review of admission requirements. This is done not to limit educational opportunity but, rather, to insure admis-

sion of those students who have the ability of obtaining a degree without the unhappy and expensive experience of academic failure. These reviews will continue, as will our efforts to provide education for the "late bloomer" through admission from other institutions.

It is also planned that the percentage of students accepted from junior colleges and other institutions will increase rather than decrease. In this way the University will be able to award even more undergraduate degrees than it has in the past.

Throughout its ninety-year history, the University's four year undergraduate program has produced many of the leading citizens of the State. It is our hope and intention that this will continue.

Without four-year students, campus life as most of us know and value it would not have the same character or flavor. Not only do we intend to continue and to expand our undergraduate teaching program, but our corresponding athletic and student activities programs as well.

Our position is based on a conviction that the undergraduate educational opportunities offered by the University should be available to the future leaders of the state in many areas—not only to those in technical, professional and scholarly fields, but also to potential leaders of business and industry, agriculture and civic life as well.

Our graduate program will expand, of course, as the need increases for greater facilities in this area. This does not mean that the University's undergraduate program will be reduced.

We believe that it is essential to retain or plan on each general campus of the University a full four-year undergraduate program. ■ ■

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New Scientific Activities For Student A.M.A.

CHICAGO—The Student American Medical Association, the world's largest independent association of resident physicians, interns, and medical students, has just established a Division of Scientific Activities.

The announcement was made by Russell F. Staudacher, Executive Director of the Association's Executive Council.

"First Director of the Division will be Dr. Edward R. Pinckney, who is Medical Editor of the association's official publication, *The New Physician*," said Mr. Staudacher.

"One of the activities that will be undertaken will be the study of state medical licensing problems as they affect new physicians," Mr. Staudacher went on to say, "And a panel discussion under the direction of Dr. Stiles Ezell, Secretary of the Board of State Medical Examiners, has already been planned for the May, 1960, annual meeting in Los Angeles."

While most of the future projects will depend on grants, Doctor Pinckney told of a study now under way at the request of the United States Senate.

"We have been asked to assist the Senate's non-partisan international health work by making a survey of foreign nationals who are studying medicine, or are working in hospitals, in the United States," Dr. Pinckney said.

"The idea is to see if there are any particular difficulties that might be overcome for those from other countries, and to find more ways of making

medicine the international diplomatic force it should be."

Other fields to be explored are the study and survey of existing audio-visual aids and exhibits in the medical field; a study of the social environment of the medical student, especially the married student; to see if there are any problems peculiar to those studying medicine; and the increased participation in research by medical students and house physicians.

Because operating costs and activities will depend upon grants, a special grants committee has been set up.

Chairman of this committee is Dr. Chauncey D. Leake (former professor of pharmacology here), Assistant Dean of Ohio State University Medical School and President-Elect of the Advancement of Science.

*

CHICAGO—Dr. Austin E. Smith, President of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Washington, D.C., has accepted appointment to the National Advisory Council of the Student American Medical Association, world's largest independent association of resident physicians, interns and medical students.

Dr. Smith's acceptance, which fills the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Warren E. Furley, Chicago, was announced by R. F. Staudacher, Executive Director of SAMA.

Serving with Doctor Smith, former editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, on the Council are: David Buchanan, M.D., Past National President of SAMA, Huron, So. Dakota; Ward Darley, M.D., Executive Director, Association of American Medical

Colleges, Evanston, Illinois; Mark R. Everett, Ph.D., Dean, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Oklahoma City; Hugh H. Hussey, Jr., M.D., Dean, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C., and Edward L. Turner, M.D., Director, Division of Scientific Activities, American Medical Association, Chicago Illinois.

* * *

Coffee and Counsel

- The stimulation provided by the *Coffee Break* comes more from conversation *over* the cups, than from the caffeine in them.

- This, at least, is the contention of Dr. Jean S. Felton of California School of Public Health.

- Although laboratory work has shown that caffeine acts on the brain to promote clearer, more rapid thinking, the Los Angeles investigator declares that these effects "*have never been demonstrated in the work situation.*"

- Dr. Felton goes on to say: "Probably the greatest value of the coffee break is the opportunity, particularly for those in repetitive work, to cease their labors periodically, and establish or develop further relationships with co-workers.

"Whether welders are on a *smoke-break* at the coffee dispenser or typists are at the snack bar, there is value in these groupings.

"Experiences are exchanged and tensions lessened. Plans are made for joint activities, romances are nourished, and low-level counseling executed."

NEW HOURS FOR ATHLETIC WING

New Hours for the Union athletic facilities went into effect January 4. The new time schedule cuts out what has been found to be fringe hours, where the demand for use of the facilities is negligible.

Even though we would like to keep the doors to the athletic facilities open more hours, budgetary commitments demand that we shorten our hours of operation for the Spring semester.

Hours of Operation

ATHLETIC AND POOL FACILITIES:

Monday-Friday	12-9 P.M.
Saturday	9 A.M.-6 P.M.
Sunday	1 P.M.-6 P.M.

RECREATIONAL SWIM SCHEDULE:

(Members and Guests)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	12 Noon-9 P.M.
Tuesday and Thursday	12 Noon-7 P.M.
Saturday and Sunday	1 P.M.-6 P.M.

(Employees and Families)

Monday and Friday	5 P.M.-9 P.M.
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SPRING PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

SWIMMING INSTRUCTION PROGRAM:

Registration and sign-ups for the Spring semester swimming classes will be taken from February 1 through February 7. Both adult and children's classes will be scheduled. The next series of lessons is scheduled to begin during the week of February 15. A printed schedule of classes may be obtained at the Athletic Control Desk. ■ ■

WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTORS COURSE SCHEDULE TO START FEBRUARY 9:

In cooperation with the local chapter of the American Red Cross, the Union Recreation Department will offer a Water Safety Instructors Swimming Course during the Spring semester. Enrollment will be limited to 20 persons. The course will consist of approximately 60 working hours, with instruction being given on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-9 P.M. Applications for this course are now being accepted. For further information contact Bud Alexander, Recreation Supervisor, Ext. 721, Room 243, Millberry Union. ■ ■

DANCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE SET:

A schedule for the women's modern dance classes and the ballroom dance instruction program is as follows:

Modern Dance — *Tuesday*, 5:30-6:30 P.M.
7 P.M.-8 P.M.

Ballroom Dance Instruction — *Thursday*,
7 P.M.-9 P.M.

Sign-ups for these classes will be taken from February 1 through February 12, with classes scheduled to begin during the week of February 15. ■ ■

UNION PLANS WEEK-END CHARTER BUS EXCURSIONS TO A.S.U.C. SKI LODGE:

Two week-end ski trips have been planned by the Union. The first date is set for February 12, 13 and 14, and the second for March 18, 19 and 20. Accommodations for 46 people are available, 23 men and 23 women. The cost is \$17 per person, which includes charter bus transportation, lodging, and meals.

Reservations may be made at the Central Desk of Millberry Union. A deposit of \$5.00 must be made when making reservation. The balance must be paid three days prior to the day of departure.

Deadline for sign-ups is Friday, February 5. The rate for children under 10 is \$14. ■ ■



"Who waxed this table?"

CANALIA

**CHARTER BUS EXCURSION
TO 1960 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
AT SQUAW VALLEY:**

Two trips, one on Sunday, February 21 and the other on Sunday, February 28, are planned. Charter bus reservations and game tickets are now available at the Central Desk of Millberry Union.

Students, faculty, employees and families are invited to attend. The cost is \$14.50 per person which includes the charter bus transportation and Squaw Valley spectator tickets.

Sign-up deadline is February 15.

Both of the dates selected for the excursion are highlighted with ski jumping and slalom skiing.

SKI TOUR TICKETS:

Reservations and ticket sales for weekend tours for skiing at Squaw Valley (site of the 1960 Winter Olympics), through the Garry Enterprise Agency, are now available at the Central Desk of the Union. Information and brochures are available at the Central Desk.

The price per person is \$27.50, which includes transportation, two nights' lodging, meals, Saturday evening cocktail party, and dancing, with reduced rates on ski tows and instruction.

Reservations must be made two weeks in advance of scheduled trip. Drive-up trips are \$13.50 per person, for a two-day weekend ■ ■



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