

Rhododendron Produces Blood Pressure Drug

Atlantic City, N. J.—A new drug taken from the leaves of the rhododendron, a common flowering shrub found in many home gardens, may help control high blood pressure in man.

Two doctors from the Emory University (Ga.) School of Medicine told a meeting of researchers here that the drug, andromedotoxin, already has been effective in lowering blood pressure in animals.

Connecticut's violent death rate is an annual 44 per 100,000 compared to 58 per 100,000 for the nation.

Weather Expert Comments On Quirks of Hurricanes

What can be done about hurricanes? Are they predictable? Can they be deflected or destroyed? What caused the two big recent storms to move in such an unusual way? Are the tropics moving northward? Could an atom bomb be used to break up a hurricane? According to Dr. Jerome Spar, research associate professor of meteorology who will teach a course this fall in "Forecasting the Weather"

at New York University's Division of General Education, it is doubtful that weathermen will ever be able to predict storms with the accuracy the public expects. "No meteorologist," he says, "can forecast with any confidence where or when a hurricane will form. In general, weathermen don't even try. It is like predicting which of 10 people will first develop cancer. But, as in diagnosing the disease,

they try to detect the hurricane as soon after it is born as possible. "Analysts are helped immeasurably in this task today by Air Force and Navy reconnaissance that fly directly into the storms. On the other hand, the job was complicated recently when the government removed a weather ship stationed about 250 miles east of Cape Hatteras. Meteorologists hope, however, that the ship will be replaced soon with an automatic buoy weather station."

The methods available for predicting where and how fast a hurricane will move are still inadequate, the NYU scientist says. But the answers may be discovered in the extensive research on the forecasting of storms now being conducted by the Weather Bureau, Air Force, Navy, and many of the nation's universities.

"It's doubtful," Dr. Spar believes "that exploding an atom bomb would have any effect on a hurricane, unless the explosion itself were of the dimensions of the storm. In that case, the storm might be far less dangerous than the bomb."

"It has been suggested that an atomic explosion in a baby hurricane when it is just forming and the energy of the storm is still small, might prevent its development. Perhaps this is possible, but it can also be argued that the explosion might cause a worse storm. The best guess is that there would be no effect. It is significant to remember that the Pacific atom tests did not produce any large or developing storms."

No two hurricanes are alike, Dr. Spar points out. The winds in the storms are always changing and the only certain factor is that they do blow counterclockwise in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere. Hurricanes whose winds whirl at a speed of 75 miles or more an hour may be moving less than 10 miles an hour. A slight change in storm direction may mean the difference between disaster and pleasant weather.

"The path of a hurricane is usually parallel to the winds in the upper atmosphere," Dr. Spar explains. "The storms move like a small whirl or vortex in a stream. Streams that carry or steer the hurricane are currents of air more than a thousand miles wide and several miles deep. When this current of air flows far to the north, the storm moves northward. This is what happened to hurricanes Carol and Edna. They were steered by a current of air extending far to the north and they moved northward. The same thing happened with a similar hurricane in 1938."

"Most storms do not come under the influence of such northward moving currents and therefore remain in tropical climates. From this point of view Carol and Edna were unusual. But they are unlikely to establish a trend; nor are they to be construed as evidence that the tropics are moving northward."

"The behavior of both recent storms, however, was normal as far as the steering current was concerned. By using the steering rule, Weather Bureau meteorologists

Teamwork Builds Better State



Fixing the food was almost as much fun as eating it when Roxboro recently opened its Westwood Park with a feast for over 500. The park is one of Roxboro's projects in the "Finer Carolina" contest sponsored by Carolina Power & Light Co.

Social Security Officer Explains Amended Law

The 1954 Amendments to the Social Security Act which President Eisenhower recently signed into law have a direct effect upon the survivors of individuals who died between July 1, 1940 and August 31, 1950," N. A. Avera, district manager of the Social Security Administration, said today.

He added, "We are referring specifically to those cases where the individual died without having an insured status under the Social Security Act at the time of his death.

For instance, if an individual died in October 1943, it would have been necessary for him to have nine quarters of coverage after 1936 to be fully insured.

"If he did not have nine quarters of coverage, we could have used an alternate method of determining his insured status. The alternate method was that he have at least six quarters of coverage out of the three years before his death. If neither of these conditions applied to the deceased, no benefit payment could have been made at the time of his death."

"Under the amended law, however, if this same individual has only six quarters of coverage at any time after 1936, the survivors would now be eligible to receive benefit payments effective with the month of September 1954."

"We believe it advisable for the survivors of all individuals who have worked under social security and died in the period from July 1, 1940 through Aug. 31, 1950 to recontact our office. We are assuming, of course, that those individuals who do contact us will be the survivors of persons who have worked under the social security law and who have not previously received a benefit payment of any kind with the exception of a possible lump sum payment."

"It is estimated that approximately 100,000 cases of this type throughout the country will be reopened and benefit payments made where it was not possible to do so previously," Mr. Avera concluded. A representative of the social security office can be seen at the courthouse in Beaufort the first and third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

The highest automobile road in the United States reaches the summit of Mt. Evans — 14,260 feet—, says the National Geographic Society.

Counterfeit Money Gag Results in Probation

San Francisco — (AP) — Two printers counterfeited U. S. currency, then lit cigarettes with \$5 and \$10 bills and tossed the "money" around in a bar. Some bills later showed up in Honolulu.

In placing the men on three years' probation, Federal Judge Michael J. Roche declared the weird gag was the "most nonsensical" thing he ever encountered.

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