

POLIO VACCINE SUCCESSFUL, DOCTOR HINTS

Prospects of Immunization 'Bright,' Expert Asserts

ANN ARBOR (Mich.), March 11.—(INS)—A leading United States expert on epidemics said today that prospects for preventing infantile paralysis by active immunization have become "very bright."

The significant statement came from Dr. Thomas Francis Jr. He heads the University of Michigan team that has been evaluating the effectiveness of the Salk polio vaccine tests on hundreds of thousands of American children last year.

[Herb Caen said in his column Friday that the Salk vaccine had been 99% successful.]

Doctor Francis' study of the Salk vaccine as a possible polio preventive has been going on for months under conditions of the greatest secrecy, and the official results are not yet known. The University of Michigan scientist said he hopes his final report will be ready next month.

FUTURE PLANS.

On Doctor Francis' report will depend whether the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, in co-operation with health authorities, will go ahead with plans for the mass inoculation of some 9,000,000 children this year.

Doctor Francis' statement on the "bright" outlook for eventual prevention of the dread crippling disease provided the first official light on the possible results of the top-secret study.

ADVERSE REACTIONS.

He also revealed that in the 1954 nationwide testing of the Salk vaccine on almost half a million youngsters, few adverse reactions to injections occurred. About as many, he said, came from the "placebos" or harmless salt solutions that were injected into nearly half of the 440,000 children inoculated last year as from the vaccine.

Adverse reactions from injections of one kind or another are not unusual. Many persons react from injections with soreness, slight swellings or minor rashes. Doctor Francis indicated that in the case of the polio vaccine tests, such reactions presented a very minor problem.

Army Has Pocket-Size Radiation Detector

Low in Price for Civilian Use

BALTIMORE, March 11.—(AP)—The Army announced today it has developed a radiation detector "no bigger than a package of king-size cigarets" which could be produced cheaply for soldiers and civilians.

It can measure accurately the amount of deadly radiation an individual has absorbed in the wake of a nuclear explosion. The relatively small device can be carried in a pocket or clipped to a belt.

Development of the latest atomic age defense gadget was announced by Brig. Gen. Marshall Stubbs, whose Army Chemical Corps materiel command has headquarters here.

LIKE FILM BADGE.

General Stubbs said the device was designed at the Army Chemical Center at Sdgewood, Md. The first production schedules have been filled by two private corporations, but so far production has been limited to military needs.

It has not yet been decided if and when production will be expanded for civil defense agencies and the general civilian population.

The Army calls the detector a tactical radiation dosimeter.

Its existing counterpart is a film badge which has to be developed and calibrated before the amount of radiation absorbed can be determined.

The film badge is good for only one exposure, but the new device can be used repeatedly. Further, Army radiological experts say the dosimeter can record cumulative doses of radiation.

5 GLASS TUBES.

This is most helpful because nuclear effects on the human body are cumulative. In other words, a fatal concentration may build up from a number of small doses.

The dosimeter is a metal case containing five glass tubes lodged in rubber support. The Army says the instrument is so rigged it can withstand the weight of a ten-ton truck.

Elements in the tubes change from blue to yellow as the intensity of radiation increases. The first tube changes color under a dosage of 50 roentgens of radiation. The second changes at 125, the third at 175, the fourth at 300 and the fifth at 450.

A dosage of 450 roentgens of radiation is considered deadly.