

New Treatment For Colitis

By HERMAN N. BUNDESEN, M.D.

ULCERATIVE colitis is one of those diseases for which we have many treatments but few cures.

But now, however, a most hopeful form of treatment is being pioneered and it final results live up to first promises. It may bring great benefits to thousands who suffer from this condition.

Ordinarily, ulcerative colitis is marked by diarrhea, loss of weight and strength, and the presence of both blood and mucus in the bowel movement. A definite diagnosis, however, must be made through the use of an instrument called the proctoscope which can be passed into the bowel to allow the physician to see the characteristic changes the disease causes in the walls of the bowel.

The new treatment for this disease uses a vaccine made from *staphylococcus* germs taken from the patient's bowel. It is thought that these germs may be responsible for the condition because they are usually found in the intestinal tract along the bowel walls and in the bowel movements of patients with this condition. Furthermore, it has been found that many of these patients also have infections of the nose or throat due to *staphylococcus* germs. The vaccine was given twice a week in gradually increasing dosage, depending upon the patient's reaction to it.

Examination with X-ray and with the proctoscope, following a period of the use of the vaccine, showed apparent recovery or satisfactory improvement. After two weeks' treatment, patients reported they were eating better, that there was no diarrhea, and less blood in the bowel movement. At the end of a few months of each improvement, it was noted that the bowel itself was gradually returned to normal.

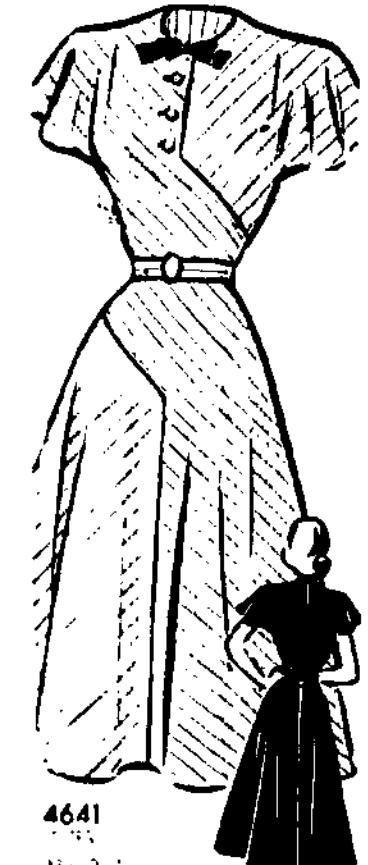
It may be that all patients will respond to this treatment. It would appear that whether or not they are benefited depends on the type of *staphylococcus* germs producing the disorder. At any rate, if the patient with ulcerative colitis has nose and throat infections due to *staphylococcus* germs, and these germs can be shown to be present in the intestinal tract, the treatment with the vaccine might well be tried.

Some patients with this disorder may be benefited by the use of large doses of penicillin. Others have noted improvement with other types of vaccines, such as those made from streptococcus germs.

Several patients were treated by Dr. W. A. Headley, of Pennsylvania, using *staphylococcus* vaccines and, in all cases, there was thorough recovery or satisfactory improvement.

The use of heat, such as infrared lamps or diathermy, may be helpful in some cases on operation if necessary, depending on whether or not calcium or lime deposits have developed in the tissue.

Your Right Angles



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By ANNE ADAMS

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Pursuit of Happiness

The Official Railway Guide

"Isabelle, here's our copy of the Official Railway Guide."

"Fine. Where did you buy it?"

"I didn't buy it. I talked myself into a free copy. I've just come from a visit with A. J. Burns. He's manager of the firm that publishes The Guide. I got to his office before he did, but pretty soon he came in like a force of nature, ruddy, hale, and bragging about his golf."

"He's an easy man to talk to. He told me that The Guide had hired him, fresh from school, for a two-week's summer job, and he had stayed on for the next sixty years. With smiling eyes, he stated that The Official Guide is the largest monthly publication in the world. After enjoying my astonishment for a moment, he explained that every copy of The Guide contains 1500 pages, weighs three pounds, and costs \$3.00 a copy or \$24 a year."

"But Hubbard, who would pay money like that for a book of railroad maps and timetables?"

Lots of people, The railroads, various departments of the government, tourist agencies, and every firm that does any amount of shipping. The thing that surprises me is the demand for back numbers. A Guide of ten years ago costs \$6.00 a copy. Go back to the 1930's and a copy will cost you over \$20.00. I learned that genuine railfans take a passionate interest in every detail of railroad history and collect back numbers, the way some people collect stamps.

"At present, The Guide has no competition, but it has arrived at this happy state only by many years of painstaking accuracy. The railroads are always making changes. Every month at least 25% of the pages must be revised, and some months the revised pages run as high as 75%. Advance notice of these changes come to The Guide in the shape of employee timetables, letters, telegrams, and phone calls. This raw material goes to the desks of a squad of expert compilers and proofreaders. Their motto is, 'ABSOLUTE ACCURACY.'

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