

Heredit is a factor

What makes some persons allergic?

Allergic people are different. Their bodies recognize and react to naturally occurring substances such as pollen grains, mold spores, house dust and foods which have no such effects on non-allergic people.

These substances are called "antigens" and are generally protein molecules capable of entering the body and stimulating the production of antibodies. Antigens vary in strength. An example of a very powerful one is the smallpox vaccine, which stimulates protective antibodies in nearly 100 per cent of people.



By PAUL D. RADGENS, M.D.

lergies. Half the children of allergic mothers will have allergies.

If both parents are allergic, three-fourths of their children will be allergic.

The allergic person, therefore, is not lacking anything but actually has something extra. He has in his blood and body tissues antibodies — that is, protein molecules which react with exposure to the weak, naturally occurring antigen substances.

Sometimes it takes months of exposure to develop these antibodies, sometimes years. For instance, a person coming to this area from Europe,

where ragweed is not prevalent, has no symptoms the first mid-August to the first frost season. Usually it is the second ragweed season when symptoms start, but it might be several years later. Some people become allergic to ragweed at age 50 after being exposed to it for 40 seasons.

Antibodies are very specific. If the antigen is house dust, the antibody is anti-house dust. Ragweed causes the development of anti-ragweed antibodies.

The allergist's skin tests detect which of these antibodies are present. Then, by correlating the results of the skin tests with the history of symp-

oms — their magnitude and the times of their occurrence — the allergist can prescribe appropriate immunization therapy.

A positive skin test by itself is only an aid to therapy. Treatment should never be based on skin test results alone.

ONCE A PERSON has developed these specific antibodies, then even a minute subsequent exposure to the antigen causes a reaction wherein antibody and antigen combine in the body and release histamine and other powerful chemicals.

These chemicals react on various susceptible tissues and organs causing

muscle spasm, gland secretion, mucous membrane swelling and blood vessel swelling.

If this reaction occurs in the lung tissues, one has asthma; if in the nasal tissues or eye tissues, one has hay fever or sinus; if in the skin, hives or eczema; and if in the intestinal tract, one may have colic, diarrhea or vomiting. If the brain is the shock organ, headaches occur.

The symptoms depend on what the shock organ is — the lung, nose, eyes, skin or intestinal tract. One person allergic to ragweed could have hay fever from mid-August to the first frost, another could have asthma, and

a third could have hay fever and asthma.

Although food allergy tends to favor intestinal symptoms, some persons have nasal symptoms or asthma when they eat a food to which they are allergic. In the majority of cases, multiple allergies are the rule.

In summary: To be allergic one must have a hereditary propensity to develop antibodies after varying degrees of exposure to weak antigens in nature. During subsequent, even minute, exposures, symptoms occur and are determined by the particular susceptible shock organ or tissue present.

At the other end of the spectrum are very weak antigens, like pollens, molds, house dust and foods which stimulate antibodies in allergic persons. These antibodies in allergic people are non-protective and harmful.

HEREDITY makeup is most important in determining who the allergic people will be. One-third of the children of allergic fathers will have al-

Parapsychology conference set

A one-day conference on parapsychology will be conducted in the Oakland Center of Oakland University, Saturday, April 6.

In the morning Dr. Stanley Krippner, director of the Maimonides Dream Laboratory in Brooklyn and director of research York Institute for Child Development, will discuss ESP and related phenomena in the USSR and Eastern Europe.

The afternoon session will feature an address by Dr. Krippner on Kirlian photography and psychotronic generators. In addition, Dr. Richard Brooks, associate professor of philosophy at Oakland, and Ruth Kevan, a psychic and teacher of ESP, will join Dr. Krippner for a discussion of parapsychology today.

Registration information may be obtained by contacting the conference department at Oakland University. Fees for the conference are \$8.50 for registration and \$3.50 for luncheon.

Car pool drivers will pay smaller insurance premiums

An auto insurance plan which rewards drivers who reduce the amount of their driving has been approved by the Michigan Insurance Bureau and put into effect across the state.

Instituted by Allstate Insurance Co., this plan is directed primarily to drivers in car pools. Under a new car pool classification plan, adult-rated motorists can reduce their present auto insurance premiums by limiting the number of miles they travel.

Their premium will be based on the coverage they have, the distance they previously drove to work before joining a car pool, and their annual mileage, said Albert Bilgen, regional manager of Allstate.

For example, a driver who lives near the center of Detroit and normally drives 10-20 miles one way to work, can save \$21 or six per cent by joining a car pool. At the same time, depending on how much he reduces his annual mileage, he could be eligible for the additional saving of \$40, bringing the total savings to \$61 or 18 per cent.

Bonds to assist in tree planting

Bill Bonds, TV newscaster, will assist the senior tree planting ceremony on the Madonna College campus in Livonia, Monday, April 22, at 12:30 p.m.

The traditional ceremony is symbolic of the roots put down at Madonna by the 136 graduating seniors.

Assisting with the planting of the flowering crabapple, the official tree of Livonia, will be outgoing Student Congress President Denise Korniewicz and incoming President Patti Pauline.

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