

## FOOD-POISONING BREAKTHROUGH

An important breakthrough in the investigation of an elusive type of food poisoning has been made by a Canadian scientist.

Dr. Andreas Hauschild, of Ottawa, has discovered a new group of bacteria as the cause of many formerly unidentified outbreaks. His findings change long-established methods of investigation and will help avoid future outbreaks of food poisoning.

Dr. Hauschild's paper was one of the most important among those selected for presentation to the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, which began on May 5 in Detroit.

Dr. Hauschild is a research scientist in the Food and Drug Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa. Working in close collaboration with the Chief of Microbiology, Dr. F.S. Thatcher, he subjected a group of bacteria, *Clostridium perfringens*, to many months of intensive experimentation. Many cases of food poisoning characterized by painful diarrhea and abdominal cramps were known to be caused by the heat-resistant strains of this group. At the same time, the cause of other

outbreaks, characterized by the same symptoms, remained unidentified. Now Dr. Hauschild has proved that they are caused by a closely-related group of bacteria which are non-heat-resistant. The use of heat in former investigations had been destroying this vital evidence.

The new group of bacteria acts in two ways. A few cells in a wound can cause gas gangrene which is usually fatal without prompt treatment. However, about a billion cells are needed to cause food poisoning, a relatively mild disease, although death can occasionally be caused in the sick and elderly. Most people have experienced this illness, often without suspecting the cause.

Dr. Hauschild now expects to establish the exact cause of the disease — something that up to now has frustrated scientists in several countries.

Dr. Hauschild is a native of Wense, near Bremen, Germany. He came to Canada in 1956 and held various positions, notably as a research scientist at the University of Toronto, before joining the Department of National Health and Welfare in 1965.

## ASTRONAUT TREATY SIGNED

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced the signing by Canada of the Treaty on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

In accordance with procedures adopted for the signing of the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in April 1963, and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space in January last year, this new pact on astronauts and space objects was opened for signature by the three depository countries — Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union — on April 22. It was signed on April 25 by the Canadian High Commissioner in London, Mr. C.S.A. Ritchie, the Canadian Ambassador in Washington, Mr. A.E. Ritchie, and the Canadian Ambassador in Moscow, Mr. R.A.D. Ford.

The Outer Space Treaty, which came into force in October 1967 and to which Canada is a party, affirms principles relating to international co-operation in outer space, one of which is that there should be no legal or political barriers to prevent the swiftest and most effective help possible being extended to any astronaut who suffers accident, is experiencing conditions of distress, or has made an emergency or unintended landing, and that these "envoys of mankind" should be safely and promptly returned to the launching state. The Treaty represents the combined effort of many countries to establish a practical legal arrangement to carry out these purposes, as well as for the return of space objects, which would be acceptable to all and which would preserve the full sovereignty of states within their territorial boundaries.

As an active member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Canada was directly involved in drafting and negotiating the text of the Treaty and was one of its co-sponsors in the United Nations. The Treaty received the unanimous approval of the General Assembly on December 19, 1967.

Mr. Sharp said that it was the sincere hope of the Canadian Government that this new Outer Space Treaty would prove to be another significant step in the direction of greater international co-operation in the practical and peaceful utilization of outer space for the general benefit of all mankind.

## TARIFFS SUSPENDED

Mr. E.J. Benson, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board, has announced certain decisions affecting tariff rates. These decisions were consequent on the dissolution of Parliament before the legislative enactment of proposed changes in the customs tariff introduced in the budgets of June 1 and November 30, 1967, and in the resolution introduced November 6, 1967, to implement tariff changes agreed to in the Kennedy Round of tariff negotiations.

Virtually all these changes involved reductions in duties — predominantly, these were reductions effective January 1, 1968, under the Kennedy Round agreements. Mr. Benson said that all the proposed reductions in duties were being continued in effect by means of an order in council under the Financial Administration Act.

The Minister noted that the budgets of June 1 and November 30, 1967, and the resolution introduced