

Simple test (Continued from P. 6)

with compounds called technetium tin pyrophosphates. Named radiopharmaceuticals because they include a radioactive marker, these substances can be injected into a subject and after a certain time their position in the body can be detected by an external scanner. Prior to the work of Drs. Kaye and Rosenthal, little was known about the action of these substances.

If the scanner shows increased amounts of technetium in the bone, this indicates the presence of abnormal collagen. The test can be used to screen for this condition and to monitor the state of patients

Peregrine falcon stamp issue

A new 12-cent stamp, featuring the peregrine falcon, was issued last month as one of a series on endangered species.

According to the Postmaster General, Jean-Jacques Blais, "the widespread use of pesticides after the Second World War resulted in the disruption [of the falcons'] breeding patterns.... The gradual elimination of these pesticides has given the falcons a fighting chance in North America, but their continued existence is still very much in jeopardy and for this reason we must make Canadians aware of the need to foster programs to save the falcon."



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where one would expect the eventual development of abnormal collagen — e.g. those suffering from renal failure.

Prior to the studies done by Kaye and Rosenthal, the detection of bone disease involving abnormal collagen was a fairly complicated matter. Now the establishment of technetium's affinity for abnormal collagen has provided physicians with a relatively simple diagnostic test. Patients with kidney failure, for example, who have a tendency towards the development of abnormal collagen can be tested periodically with the administration of technetium. The compound can also be employed as a screening test for the detection of bone abnormalities.

News briefs

Finance Minister Jean Chrétien told a federal-provincial finance ministers' meeting on January 26 there would be no budget before April.

Panavia, the European consortium seeking to sell the *Tornado* fighter aircraft to the Canadian Armed Forces, has offered to place final assembly work and some sub-assembly work in Canada.

The Prime Minister announced on January 26, that legislation would be introduced soon to give the Royal Canadian Mounted Police the right to open private mail. Speaking at a news conference, Mr. Trudeau said the bill would give the RCMP this right only "in certain defined circumstances".

Hurricane-force winds and snow battered Ontario on January 26, stranding travellers, knocking out hydro in many areas and causing heavy property damage. Winds of up to 120 kilometres an hour whipped up snow that blocked highways, causing the London transit system to cancel all service in the morning, with 40 buses abandoned on the streets. Military personnel helped in rescue operations in Windsor, London, St. Thomas and Hamilton. Some Hamilton schools kept children overnight.

C.M. (Bud) Drury, former Cabinet minister and special adviser on the Northwest Territories, has been appointed chairman of the National Capital Commission. He replaces Pierre Juneau, who becomes Under-Secretary of State, reporting to Secretary of State John Roberts. Mr. Juneau takes over from André Fortier, who has been named pre-

sident of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. All appointments take effect February 15.

Canada had a seasonally adjusted trade surplus of \$420 million in December, compared with a surplus of \$180 million in November, reports Statistics Canada. It was the third largest surplus in 1977, exceeded by one of \$544 million in October and \$514 million in March.

A 300-pound shark has been rescued from the frozen Saguenay River, about 32 km down-stream from Chicoutimi, Quebec. It was the third shark trapped in that region in the last few months. Rescuers used a snowmobile and a net to draw the shark out of the hole made in the ice.

Exports of light crude oil to the United States will be limited to 55,000 barrels a day in 1978, down from 137,000, the National Energy Board says.

Canada has given Jamaica a balance of payments support grant of \$11 million.

The Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Authority and the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation of the United States, have reached agreement on a revised joint seaway tariff of tolls. Fifty per cent of the increased amounts will be applied at the start of the 1978 navigation season, 75 per cent at the start of the 1979 season and 100 per cent at the start of the 1980 season. Toll increases, necessary to meet increased costs in both countries, are expected to generate in 1978 approximately \$40 million in revenue for Canada from the tolls charged for transit of the Welland Canal and from its share of the tolls charged for transit of the Montreal-Lake Ontario section. The U.S. in turn expects to collect \$9 million as its share of revenues on the Montreal-Lake Ontario section.

Two-thirds of Canadian households now have colour television sets, the household item that has shown the greatest sales increase in recent years. In May 1977, 67.8 per cent of Canada's 7,022,000 households had at least one colour TV, while in May 1976, 60.6 per cent had this item.

An anti-corrosion code for automobiles that requires 1978 models to last for at least three years without serious rusting was announced recently by Consumer Affairs Minister Warren Allmand. The auto manufacturing industry is expected to comply voluntarily with the code, which has been approved by consumer affairs ministers of the provinces.