

MEDICAL NEWS

Although "Cellona" technique in the treatment of Fractures, Soft Tissue Injuries, Burns, etc., is world-wide, the use of the trade-mark "Cellona" by the British Manufacturers—T. J. Smith & Nephew Ltd.—is restricted to British territories. In non-British territories the name "Gypsona" is used. It has long been felt, however, that this universal product should have one name ensuring immediate identification in every part of the world. Therefore T. J. Smith & Nephew's P.O.P. bandages, wide material and slabs are now all marketed as "Gypsona." The manufacturers are confident that this step is taken in the best interests of surgery and of British trade.

It is emphasised that the change is one of name only. The quality and properties of the product will not be altered.

Since all P.O.P. bandages tend to deteriorate after long storage, the manufacturers request users to exhaust existing stocks of "Cellona" before opening their fresh supplies of "Gypsona."

CORRESPONDENCE

SIR,

It was with great interest that I read Dr. Elkan's article on "A New Test for Pregnancy" in the March issue of the Journal and learnt of the service to which *Xenopus Laevis* is now being put in the Pregnancy Test.

Dr. Elkan, in a discussion on the biology of this South African frog, states that *Xenopus* can survive long periods of starvation (p. 88). I was interested in this very problem some twelve years ago and investigated the question of how long a frog can live without food, showing that *Xenopus* can survive at least twelve months without sustenance.

The frogs were kept in fresh water in a small tank which was carefully covered with very fine netting to obviate the possibility of insects such as flies falling into the tank and providing a source of nourishment for the frogs. At the end of a year the frogs were none the worse for their protracted imprisonment and it is possible that they are able to subsist for two years or more without food. As Dr. Elkan states, frogs are able to draw on a fat-body carried in the abdomen and in this way are able to live for long spells without food. It is this endorsement which enables the South African frog to be exported to distant parts of the world without difficulty, and no doubt *Xenopus Laevis* will play an important rôle in serving man as an experimental animal in the years to come.

G. R. W. N. LUNTZ, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

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