

Medical

Tailpiece :

ANIMALS COME TO OUR AID

CAT, rat and rabbit aids to science were emphasised at the medical congress yesterday

Professor W. S. Dawson, Sydney psychiatrist, said that rats had been used in experiments to help psychotics (those seriously ill mentally).

Blood from psychotics, injected into rats, produced different effects from injections of blood from presumably healthy medical students, he said.

Examinations of the rats after they had been submitted to shock treatment showed they had suffered no adverse effects from the shock therapy which now formed the basis of modern psychiatric treatment.

Sydney specialist, Dr. F. C. Courtice, told congress how he had experimented with cats and rabbits to find how quickly poisons from a burst appendix or a ruptured stomach ulcer were absorbed by the body.

He said he had injected a fluid containing a dye into the abdominal cavities of cats.

Blood samples from the cats showed how long the dye took to reach the blood stream.

Results of his experiments may have a bearing in the treatment of peritonitis.

Doctors said later that guinea pigs had been used for T.B. tests, monkeys for infantile paralysis experiments, horses for manufacture of serums, calves for lymph (a smallpox vaccination), white mice for cancer experiments, and pigs for shock therapy.