

CURE IS REPORTED FOR SEASICKNESS

**Dramamine Also Preventive,
Two Baltimore Doctors Say
—Discovery Accidental**

BALTIMORE, Feb. 14 (AP)—Baltimore physicians using a drug in an Army-sponsored experiment today reported a cure and preventive for seasickness.

Details of their findings in the test were presented to the Johns Hopkins Hospital Medical Society by Dr. Leslie H. Gay and Dr. Paul Carliner.

The dramatic story of how seasickness, which has put its stamp of wretchedness on countless ocean travelers, found its master, according to the two physicians, is this:

As so often in medical history, accident played a major part in the discovery of the properties of the new drug dramamine. Used on a patient for another illness, it unexpectedly cured her car sickness.

The key experiment was then made aboard the Army transport General Ballou, on a trip from New York to Bremerhaven, Germany.

During that extremely rough crossing less than 2 per cent of soldiers who got the drug as a preventive measure developed seasickness.

The two physicians also said that those susceptible to other forms of motion sickness—from cars, planes or trains—also would benefit.

Motion sickness, one of the truly baffling medical problems, is caused by the disturbance of man's equilibrium mechanism. Sometimes it passes away within two or three days, when the balancing apparatus—semi-circular canals in the ears—adjusts itself to the movement of ship, plane, train, or car.

But sometimes a severer state develops: Nausea, dizziness, and vomiting become so violent and prolonged that the body loses too much fluid. Injections then are necessary to fight the drying-up process.

World War II prompted intensive studies of the malady, but drugs which were apparently successful produced side effects as seriously handicapping as motion sickness itself.

The drug was being investigated—one among many others—for possible use in relieving allergic conditions. One patient, suffering from hives, happened to be a lifelong victim of car sickness besides.

Dramamine cured the hives—and, she told the doctors, she found she got complete relief from car sickness when she had taken a capsule shortly before boarding her street car.

Then Dr. Gay and Dr. Carliner conducted tests that brought about the final belief the drug would both prevent and cure seasickness.

The New York Times

Published: February 15, 1949

Copyright © The New York Times