

### GERM IS DISCOVERED

#### Micro-Organism Causing Infantile Paralysis Found.

Dr. Samuel Dixon, Secretary of Pennsylvania Board of Health, Makes Remarkable Find—Hope of Final Cure Seen.

Topeka, Kan.—Dr. S. J. Crumline, secretary of the Kansas Board of Health, has received a letter from Dr. Samuel Dixon, secretary of the Pennsylvania board of health, explaining in detail what is believed to be the discovery of the micro-organism which causes infantile paralysis. Dr. Dixon does not definitely assert that he has found the germ, but he has found an organism in the blood of persons and animals which are afflicted with the disease and the organism does not appear in the blood of normal persons or animals and it is not described in any of the treatises of germs.

Infantile paralysis has been epidemic in parts of Kansas for two years. Last year there were 189 cases and forty-seven deaths reported from this disease and the year before there were eighty cases and eighty deaths. Scientists are working hard to isolate the germ which causes the disease and to work out a treatment to prevent or cure it. Thus far no cure has been discovered and the germ has not been entirely isolated. The discovery of Dr. Dixon is a great advance and it may lead to the discovery of the cause and a treatment for the disease.

Dr. Crumline and the physicians connected with the state board of health and the university medical school are watching with great interest the tests being made by Dr. Dixon.

In his letter Dr. Dixon says:

"In examining the blood from acute cases of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) in human beings and also in monkeys, in which the disease was produced experimentally, an organism was found, different in morphologic character from any heretofore described, which may or may not, on further investigation, prove to be the etiologic factor in the causation of the disease. Blood smears being fixed in methyl alcohol for one minute and stained with carbol-thioin, the organism appears as a faintly stained blue rod, with regular cell wall about ten microns long and about eight-tenths of a micron in width, curved at an angle of 60 to 75 degrees at one end, occasionally at both ends. At times the curved end is bulbous. Some of the organisms appear to have a very finely granular protoplasm when the highest magnification is employed."

Dr. Dixon then describes the microscope which gave the best results in the examination. Continuing he says:

"The bloods examined were from five different cases of acute poliomyelitis in children and were taken during the epidemic last summer, and from thirteen cases of the disease in the acute stage, which had been produced experimentally in as many monkeys. Blood smears from three normal human beings were carefully examined and, although the search for these organisms was diligently made, none were found. Smears were made from the blood of thirteen normal monkeys with negative results. After inoculation with the virus these same monkeys give positive results."

"Smears from the cords and brains of paralyzed monkeys and from one human case were examined, but none of the organisms was found. Debrided blood, three weeks to two months old, from two paralyzed monkeys, showed numbers. Cultures made from the blood of a paralyzed monkey in various forms, examined after being inoculated three weeks, showed the presence of the organism in increased numbers. Success in isolating the organisms has not attended our efforts as yet."

### FLIPPED COIN FOR MILLIONS

#### Man Buy Land Where Little Silver Piece Falls and Are Rewarded by Fortune in Oil.

San Francisco.—Four thousand barrels of oil a day are gushing from an old oil field in the Bakersfield country that was discovered through the flipping of a silver coin. The owners of the gusher are Clarence Berry, John D. Spreckles, Jr., William Maguire and Charles Holbrook, said to be worth millions. Recently offered an option on all lands they were dubious about the prospect.

"Which bit of land to buy we don't know," said Spreckles, "so let us toss a coin and see where it falls. We'll buy there."

The other agreed. A coin was spun high in the air. The place where it fell was marked out. The property was acquired. Engineers were put to work. The first boring made was at the spot where the coin fell. In less than a week oil began to spurt. Now the chief concern of the investors in the land is to supply enough barrels to take care of the gushing oil.

Liberia Chooses New Head. Paris.—The governor general of French East Africa advises the government that D. H. Howard, formerly secretary of the Treasury of Liberia, has been elected president of the republic, succeeding President Arthur Barclay, whose term expires with the present year.

### LONG KISS CAUSES TROUBLE

#### One of Affectionate Pair Carried to Sea While Bidding Chum Farewell—Climbs Rope Ladder.

New York.—"Good-bye, Eda; I do hope you have a delightful voyage. I'm going to miss you a lot."

"I'm going to miss you, too, Odie; I wish you were coming!"

Picture two women aboard the Caronia bidding each other good-bye. They are chums, and every word is punctuated with a kiss.

The whistle has tooted for all hands ashore, the gangplanks are pulled away, the tug strains at the hawsers and the big liner begins to move.

Suddenly, between kisses, one of the affectionate pair comes back to earth. They realize that the voyage has begun and that there is one person aboard who never intended to be a passenger.

"Heavens, what shall I do? I promised to meet John for lunch, and I had some shopping to do this afternoon. Won't somebody stop the ship and take me ashore?" This appeal was made by Mrs. Odie Baaken, a pretty young woman, who lives at No. 1110 Pleasant way, Montclair, N. J. She had been seeing off Mrs. Eda Solander of Ashland Hall, Montclair.

First a sailor was appealed to, then a petty officer, then the purser and then the captain, Mrs. Baaken growing more and more excited as each one shrugged his shoulders and referred to someone higher up.

It happened that the tug John H. Nichols, which had just finished turning the liner's nose down stream, was still at the bow, so the Caronia's captain told the distressed lady from Montclair that if she could clamber down a rope ladder she might keep her date with her husband ashore.

Mrs. Baaken made her way gingerly down the swaying ladder amid the cheers of the amused passengers.

### INITIAL JEWELRY IN FAVOR

#### English Women Spell Their Names on Dresses by Means of Brooches—French Set Fashion.

London.—Following the example of Paris, "initial" jewelry is rapidly coming into favor in London.

Women, in fact, are spelling their names on their dresses by means of little pin initial brooches.

The single initial brooch, or pin, has been worn for many years, but now the Parisienne is wearing a number of these little jeweled pins on her dress to spell her Christian name.

If her name, for instance, be Gaby, she wears as fastenings to her blouse the four letters separately, beginning with G at the throat and finishing with Y at the waist.

Quantities of initial jewelry are being sold in London, said a representative of a west end firm of jewelers, and a woman can purchase separately each letter of her name to distribute about her dress, either in the form of pendants set with small brilliants on an enamel groundwork or initial rings, bracelets, brooches and scarfpins.

Therefore if a woman desires to carry out the idea of spelling her name by means of initial jewelry she can—supposing her name be Rose—have the letter R on her brooch worn at the neck, O for the initial on her pendant, S on her initial bracelet and E for the fastening of her belt clasp.

She could also by the use of initial hatpins spell her name on her hat.

Also she might have initial buttons on her coat or initial jewelry on her shoes or stockings.

### PIN THROUGH BODY

#### Removed From Calf of Man After Nine Years' Wandering.

Californian Who Swallowed Tiny Piece of Steel Thought He Was Suffering From Liver Trouble, Rheumatism and Tuberculosis.

Los Angeles, Cal.—The wanderings of Ulysses seem as nothing when compared with those of a black-headed pin which for nine years traveled erratically through the body of Francis McMann, constantly keeping his life in jeopardy, and which was removed from the calf of his left leg at the county hospital.

McMann, who is thirty-two years old, a native of Philadelphia, for some time thought he was bewitched by the vagaries of the pin.

Nearly nine years ago, while in the Quaker city, he was asked to pin the back of a dress for his four-year-old niece. He was handed several black-headed pins for the purpose. As he was not an expert at the task, McMann put the pins in his mouth for safekeeping and in his eagerness to do well swallowed one of them.

More than a year after swallowing the pin he was troubled with sharp pains in his back and, as poultices and plaster gave no relief, he consulted a physician, who told him he had liver trouble. As time elapsed the pains became more erratic and McMann decided that he had rheumatism. Four years ago he became troubled with a sharp cough which caused his health to decline rapidly.

He left Philadelphia and came to Los Angeles, where he worked for the Lozier Brewing company for a few months. The California air did not seem to benefit his cough and he applied for admission to the county hospital. He was diagnosed as tubercular and admitted to the institution.

Three years ago an X-ray was applied to test the condition of his lungs. The examination disclosed that the pin, which McMann readily remembered to have swallowed, was lodged in his left lung and was causing serious trouble with that organ.

It was found that an operation would be impossible and treatments were applied to alter the course of the pin, the patient being kept continually in a reclining position upon his left side.

About a year ago X-ray examinations showed that the pointed little intruder had altered its course and was headed for the patient's heart. At one time it was located within half an inch of the heart's left ventricle and the life of McMann was despaired of.

The pin, however, changed its "schedule" and started in a downward direction. Its progress was anxiously watched and the physicians decided that when the traveler got below the diaphragm an operation could be performed successfully.

Three months ago it penetrated the diaphragm and lodged in the muscles of McMann's back, where the action of the muscles forced it rapidly downward. It was observed that each day the pin was becoming farther removed from the vital organs and the all-important operation was delayed until conditions were most favorable.

An examination recently disclosed the wanderer close to the surface in the muscles of the calf of the patient's left leg, whence it had traveled, closely following the bones of the limb. A simple operation was performed and the pin, looking little the worse for wear, removed.

### MOSQUITO NETTING FOR SHIP

#### British Vessel Untouched by Tropical Diseases Because of Precautions—Men Always Fit.

London.—The return to Liverpool of the steamer Thomas Holt from her second voyage to the West African coast will be noted by those interested in the suppression of tropical diseases, as her captain reports that no case of sickness has occurred on board during the voyage in question. This ship, together with her sister ship, the Jonathan Holt, was fitted up by the owners, Messrs. John Holt & Co. (Limited), of Liverpool, with mosquito-proof doors, windows and ports, to the specification of Maj. Ronald Ross, F. R. S., the well-known discoverer of the malarial germ and its dissemination by means of the Anopheles mosquito.

Robert Holt stated that the result of carrying out Maj. Ronald Ross' suggestion had proved exceedingly satisfactory.

He was convinced that the adoption of the mosquito-proof fittings on ships engaged in malarial-infected countries would also be of this pattern. It required a little extra attention on the part of the captain and officers to have their instructions carried out, but this was well repaid by having men healthy and always fit to work in the most unhealthy places. A great tribute was due to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine for the noble part it had played in improving the health conditions in West Africa and elsewhere, and latterly on shipboard.

Census of Johannesburg. Cape Town.—Corrected returns of the Johannesburg municipal census taken a month ago show that the total population then numbered 229,804, divided as follows: Whites, 111,887; natives, 95,823; South African colored, 7,747; Asiatic, 5,178.

### OLD TIME TABLES QUITE ODD

#### Queer Rules Laid Down for Passengers on Early Day Railroads—Guides Fifty Years Old.

Kansas City, Mo.—An interesting study of the railway development of the United States fifty and sixty years ago are two rare old railroad guides for 1850 and 1850, owned by Colonel George H. Foote, the oldest passenger agent in Kansas City. It was Colonel Foote who characterized the local rivers as "the fertile Missouri and the nutritious Kaw."

In 1850 not one of Missouri's three largest cities had a railroad. St. Louis alone was reached by steamer, one line operating south from Galena, Ill., the western terminus of a railroad, and another running up the Missouri from New Orleans.

Many rules that seem odd now were laid down for passengers on those early day trains, one of which was that passengers should ride only in the coaches on which their destination was marked. Only eighty pounds of baggage was carried for each passenger.

Time tables of that period specified the kind of rail used on each line. There were several varieties, the "flat," "T," "flange," "bar" and combinations of the various types. The value of a share of stock in each road always was quoted.

By 1860 a number of changes are noted in the Western railroad map. Chicago had been entered. Kansas City still had no line, although the prospects were brightening. The old Pacific road, now the Missouri Pacific, had reached Ottumwa, 178 miles west of St. Louis, and a notation was made on the time card that the road was being built toward Kansas City. The trip from St. Louis to Jefferson City, 126 miles, required six hours and forty minutes and cost \$5.75.

The North Missouri road, now the Wabash, had reached Hudson, 169 miles west of St. Louis, and the trip was made in seven hours at a cost of \$5. The Hannibal & St. Joseph, now part of the Burlington system, had reached St. Joseph. This road was 206 miles long, and it took eleven hours to make the trip, the passenger paying \$8.

A page of the 1860 guide is devoted to railroad earnings. The Chicago & Rock Island, which operated between the terminals indicated by the name, earned \$133,450 net in August, 1860. In the same month the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy made \$230,021, and the Baltimore & Ohio attained the high mark for the month, \$453,397.

### EATS MANY EGGS ON WAGER

#### Massachusetts Trolley Conductor, Champion Gourmand, Wins \$50 in Contest—Still Hungry.

Brockton, Mass.—George Ward is New England's latest champion eater. He won a \$50 bet in that city by eating eighteen fried eggs in fourteen minutes. Having won the money, Ward ate six more eggs and a pound of cheese to satisfy his hunger.

Ward lives at 654 Main street, Brockton, and is a trolley conductor on the Old Colony line. In the car barn one night an argument turned on how many fried eggs a person could eat in fifteen minutes. Ward observed: "I can do fifteen."

A \$50 betting proposition was put over, and Ward said it was a shame to take the money, but he would win that bet. The other night the fried eggs against time match was pulled off.

Ward won the money in a center. He ate eighteen eggs in fourteen minutes, going three eggs over the mark in one minute less than the stipulated time.

Then he said: "I'm kind of hungry. Just bring me a half dozen more fried eggs and a pound of cheese. And better bring a cup of tea, too. Water is kind of flat with the eggs." Then he finished his meal.

With the eggs, the cheese, the tea and the money, Ward strolled home.

### MANY TRAMPS IN NEW YORK

#### Count at Gotham Municipal Lodging House Shows Alarming Increase in Numbers Over Year Ago.

New York.—From the count kept at the municipal lodging-houses of the homeless who seek shelter there it is deduced that vagrants have doubled in number in New York recently. During the month of April 18,000 persons were sheltered there, as compared with 7,750 in April, 1910. This year's figures are five times the record for April, 1907.

Officers of the charity organization society say that the increase is not confined to the city but is noticeable all over the country.

"Records show that the vagrancy evil is assuming alarming proportions," says a statement by Superintendent Blatchley. "The only remedy in sight for this condition is the establishment of farm colonies where the laborers of these men may be utilized to meet the expense of their maintenance."

Dog Has Gold Tooth. New York.—Dr. Fred Seibert, dentist, 135 Sherman avenue, is looking for his first patient, now missing from home.

### MUSHROOMS IN MINE

#### Crops Grown Cheaply and Successfully in Coal Regions.

Some Bright Person Who Knew Something About Plant Discovered That Dark Underground Chambers Were as Good as Cellars.

New York.—"Do you see these?" remarked a man who raises mushrooms, as he pointed to a pile of mushrooms. "Well, I happen to know that those mushrooms came out of a coal mine in Pennsylvania."

"Seems funny, doesn't it, that mushrooms and coal should come from the same place, but the fact is that quite a few mushrooms are taken out of the mines now. Occasionally they help to glut the market, too."

"Of course, as everybody knows, mushrooms are raised in cellars, and two essentials are a proper fertilizer carefully applied and an even temperature. Some bright person who knew something about mushrooms discovered them artificially the dark chambers of a mine were as good as the ordinary cellar, and that you could raise mushrooms at less cost in them."

"In the first place, the mules furnished just the right kind of manure for nothing, and then the temperature of a mine is always even, so that it cost nothing to supply heat. There are lots of places in the Pennsylvania coal mines which can be used for growing mushrooms, and before long mine mushrooms are certain to be quite a factor in the market, I believe."

"The largest part of New York's supply of mushrooms comes from Pennsylvania anyway and some of the large growers are located in the coal regions, hence it is not strange that the idea of growing them in mines should be taken up there."

"Nowadays the profit in raising mushrooms for the market is not what it used to be. Formerly the mushroom grower could easily get \$1 a pound for them and was always sure of getting his crop taken as fast as it matured. Four thousands pounds of mushrooms might be called a fair crop for the man who makes a business of growing them and as you can get a crop every six weeks with careful planning, you can see how profitable it was then."

"The number of mushroom raisers has increased tremendously in the last few years, with the result that last week, for example, you could buy the best mushrooms for 25 cents a pound. The mushroom market is uncertain, because it isn't regulated at all. There are no seasons for mushrooms and no combination of growers. Hence at times the market is glutted with them, while at other times the amount brought in is small and the price goes up."

"A lot of people have gone into mushroom farming with a view of supplying a few select customers, such as the large restaurants. I know a French waiter who today is making \$5,000 a year out of what might be called a small mushroom farm."

"All the work in mushroom farming comes in starting your bed, and that isn't hard work. After that all you've got to do is see that it is kept at the proper temperature by means of the ventilator. In six weeks you get your crop."

"The mushroom market to some extent has been hurt by the plan adopted by some farmers of giving away mushrooms as a bonus to their customers with the other produce. A lot of truck farmers are raising mushrooms in their cellars just for this purpose."

"The Long Island farmers haven't taken up mushroom farming as a commercial venture to any extent and most of the mushrooms brought here from Long Island are natural ones. They are in a class by themselves and don't bring anything like as much as the artificial mushrooms. Most people are afraid of the natural mushroom—the old fear of confounding it with a toadstool, I suppose. Anyway, you can't sell them like the others."

### CONSCIENCE BUSY 15 YEARS

#### Man Steals 86 Cents From Companion in Mine Returns a Dollar and Now Feels Better.

Willisbarre, Pa.—A strange man stopped Street Commissioner Thomas Lewis on the street of Miners' Mills, near here, and gave him a crisp \$1 bill. "Take this," he said, "it belongs to you. I owe it to you."

"No, you don't," said Lewis. "I do not know you. I've never seen you before."

"Yes, you have," persisted the stranger. "Fifteen years ago I worked in the same mine with you and one day I stole a ticket of a car of coal which you had mined. It was worth 86 cents. My conscience has troubled me ever since, and now I have returned the money I know I shall feel a great deal better."

Lewis did not remember the occurrence, but he took the money.

Hoe Sale Totals \$997,363. New York.—The Hoe library sale, at which single treasures of written and printed art have sold for a fortune, came to the end of its first quarter the other day, with nearly \$1,000,000 realized. Three thousand five hundred books and manuscripts were disposed of and the grand total for the ten days reached \$997,363.50.

### AVICULTURE IS LATEST FAD

#### Well Known Londoners Buy and Rear Birds—Many Varieties of Songsters Are Made Pets.

London.—Aviculture is the last fashionable craze. Well-known people are buying and rearing beautiful birds as a hobby, and there are few big town houses without the aviaries.

Women are particularly taken up with pet birds, mostly foreign songsters of beautiful plumage.

Lady Katherine Pilkington, Lady Douglas Pennant, the Hon. Mrs. Bourke and the Countess Haldell are a few of the last converts to aviculture.

Many of these aviaries cost over \$5,000 to set up and stock, while the cost of feeding and replenishing the stock runs away with hundreds more every year.

Mr. Carl, the editor of Cage Birds, explained how an aviary is within the reach of every Londoner.

"It should be, at its smallest, 5x4 feet," he said, "and it need not cost more than \$5 to stock, with 25 cents a week to keep up."

"If the amateur aviculturist's taste lies in beauty, he should buy a dozen mixed pairs of foreign finches, waxbills, etc.; if he prefers British birds, linnets or goldfinches are the best to start with."

"Canaries are the best birds to rear if profit, as well as pleasure, is aimed at. America imports 50,000 to 60,000 canaries from us every year."

"Provided that the aviary is well covered in and set facing southwest, it may be kept out of doors in all weathers and at all times. Birds are like consumptives, fresh air never harms them."

"It is curious that apparently delicate foreign birds stand the English winter better than do English birds."

### SECURE STRENGTH IN SUGAR

#### Doctors Prescribe Saccharine Food as Heart Tonic, Wasting Disorders and Nervousness.

New York.—Ever see a "randy girl with a weak heart or a candy kid that did not caper nimbly?" For the reason why see the grave discussion in the medical periodicals summarized in the New York Medical Journal.

The British Medical Journal began the inquiry in articles by Sir James Sawyer, who advocates the use of sugar as a heart tonic. He prescribes it also in wasting disorders, some forms of anemia, dynamic rheumatism and nervous diseases. He finds patients increase in weight, power, strength and vigor, and in those of neuroathetic tendencies he finds that the results are especially good.

The patient is advised to carry with him about half a pound of lump sugar and to eat it from time to time, except just before a meal.

Pure cane sugar should be used. The purity of the product is assured if two lumps become luminous when rubbed together in the dark.

The carrying of half a pound of sugar may be useful to those who have difficulty in finding keyholes at night.

Never Rode in Trolley. Great Barrington, Mass.—Shaker women from the Mount Lebanon community were in Pittsfield imploring business men to intercede with President Mellon of the New Haven railroad to extend his trolley lines through their village. They said members of their community, seventy or more, had never been on a trolley car and they want that pleasure before they all die.

Caterpillars Stop Train. Tulsa, Okla.—A passenger train was delayed in Manford, west of here, the other day by millions of caterpillars plastered on a bridge. The wheels of the engine, crushing the larvae, made the track slippery, and the drivers spun on the rails.