

It would seem almost that he had a premonition that he would not complete his paper, for he began by saying that he would reverse the usual order of procedure and present his conclusions at the beginning. So he showed his last slide first. His auditors assumed that he did this in order to avoid being interrupted by the president before he had completed his demonstration, as speakers often are. His paper, was, indeed, left unfinished as he feared, but it was a higher power than the president of the Academy who notified him of the expiration of his allotted time.

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#### A PIN FALLS

A pin was dropped on a desk by a speaker at the dedication of the new building of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council in Washington. That pin-fall was perhaps the most significant and widely heard of any in all history. Without being warned to silence, every person in the high-domed, wide-winged hall plainly heard the pin as it struck the wood-work. Thousands of radio listeners, hundreds of miles away, also heard. Specially designed artificial stonewalls made the sound clear, distinct, without those hollow echoes which characterize high vaulted buildings of the past. That pin fall sounded an engineering triumph in the long-neglected science of acoustics.

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#### SAVING BABY'S NECK

Eradication of tuberculosis among cattle is saving the necks of babies, literally saving their necks. According to Dr. James S. Stone of Boston who gave a public lecture at the Harvard Medical School, the condition formerly called scrofula in infants is on the decrease. This so-called scrofula was really a tubercular infection of the tonsils and lymph glands of the neck. The infection was the cattle type and the babies got it in their milk. Pasteurization of the milk and the fight against the disease in cattle now makes the milk supply safer. But, Dr. Stone warns, much remains to be done. The danger comes suddenly when tuberculosis develops in the udder of any cow, thus permitting the tubercule bacilli to pass directly into the milk.

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#### VIOLINS

Old Italian violins used to be the despair of modern manufacturers. They could make nothing just as good. Then it was discovered that there was something in the wood of the instruments made by the old masters which gave the wood a hornlike structure. Working on this clue, a scientist found that treating the wood of violins with easily drying oils gave it the same appearance as the famous Italian fiddles. Putting the matter to the tests, new violins were found not only to look like those of the masters but to sound equally as well.

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A frog raised from eggs which were never fertilized by a male frog is on exhibition in the new Academy of Sciences Building in Washington.

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