

generated in various ways. A special motion picture film was used to record the results.

They found that when the spark was fired, the gas nearest it ignited, and the flames spread in the form of a hollow globe, growing larger and larger until it had used up all of the mixture. They found also that the shape of the electrode did not make any difference, and that the spark from the feeblest flivver coil was exactly on a par with a spark from the most expensive magneto, so far as the rapidity of spread of the explosion was concerned.

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#### DEATH RATE LOWEST ON RECORD DURING FIRST HALF OF YEAR

The first half of 1924 has probably registered a lower death rate than was ever experienced for the first six months of any year in the history of the United States and Canada. This is indicated by the mortality records of the industrial policyholders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, as announced by its statistical department which has just completed an analysis of the data.

After an uninterrupted rise for four years, a decline in the diabetes death rate began coincident with the increasing use of insulin in 1923. For the first six months of 1924, the fall amounted to 27.5 per cent. among the white policyholders and to more than 10 per cent. among the colored. Although there is, as yet, no positive proof that the reduction is the direct result of the increasing use of insulin, there is good reason to hope that the two phenomena are connected.

The cancer death rate was a little lower than that in evidence at this time last year. The death rate from alcoholism declined slightly. Deaths from acute poisoning by wood and denatured alcohol appear to be decreasing in the industrial population. Fatal accidents showed a little more satisfactory record. The death rates from automobile fatalities continued to increase - only slightly among the whites but about 10 per cent. among the colored. There have been fewer suicides.

The typhoid fever rate is still falling and there is promise that a new minimum will be registered in 1924. Diphtheria mortality in the industrial population has been running lower than ever before. Scarlet fever and whooping cough, it is true, show practically the same death rates as for the corresponding period of last year. However, this really indicates improvement, in view of the much greater number of infant lives exposed to risk and covered by the data this year. There has been no general prevalence of epidemic influenza thus far. The mortality from lobar pneumonia decreased markedly among the white policyholders and slightly among the colored. Bronchial pneumonia caused more deaths than during the same period of last year; but this, again, was due to the relatively high number of infants concerned. An increase in the rate for diarrheal disease is explained on the same ground. The mortality from diseases incidental to pregnancy and child-birth declined among white women, but this improvement did not obtain for colored women.

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In the Northwest Territory of Canada six game refuges with a total area of 261,800 square miles have been set aside for the exclusive use of Indians and Eskimos.

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