

was revealed on ashing, but when the invisible gold particles were used as nuclei for the deposition of further gold, it was possible to count accurately the number of albumen particles present in a given volume. The particles of albumen counted in this way were found to consist, on the average, of only fifty chemical molecules apiece.

The same technique was then used to examine filter-passing micro-organisms. Success was claimed particularly in the case of the bacteriophage discovered some six years ago by the famous French-Canadian bacteriologist, d'Herelle. This bacteriophage is one of the great mysteries of micro-biology. It brings about the destruction of dysentery and other bacilli, but expert opinion is sharply divided as to whether it is a living organism or a ferment. At any rate it is enormously smaller than the bacteria which it attacks.

Prof. Bechold has also attempted to gild the ultra-microscopic, virus of small-pox, but so far without success, although he is continuing his experiments. In view of the claim by Dr. W. E. Gye and J. E. Barnard that cancer is due to a filter-passing micro-organism, great interest has been excited by Prof. Bechold's investigations among British cancer research workers.

BABIES WITH RICKETS SLOW TO CUT TEETH

All babies who cut their teeth late may not have rickets but all who have even mild rickets are slow to cut teeth.

In a report to the American Medical Association, Drs. Julius Blum and Jacob Mellion say that fully 75 per cent. of all artificially fed and nearly 50 per cent. of all breast fed infants show evidence of a mild form of rickets during the first two years. This condition frequently passes unnoticed and is prevalent among rich and poverty-stricken alike, in contrast to the severe type which is confined almost entirely to the poor.

Observations made at the Home for Hebrew Infants in New York seem to warrant the statement that not only the appearance of the first tooth but subsequent ones as well are delayed by rickets. "This", the experts say, "is interesting in showing the systemic nature of the metabolic disturbance of rickets as well as the close relation of teething to the development and ossification of the long bones."

In spite of the definite difference between normal and rachitic infants, however, retarded teething cannot be considered, the experts say, as a definite symptom for rickets diagnosis because of the appreciable influence of other factors, notably hereditary, on the evolution of the teeth.

The sense of smell is said to grow more keen as we grow older.

Eighty per cent. of the homes in the United States are built of wood.
