

indicated the presence of mercury appeared and became stronger as time elapsed.

The experimenter states that an oil pump was used to produce the vacuum, and that every other precaution was taken to prevent the contamination of either the gold electrode or the hydrogen gas with mercury. He is confident that he has actually produced mercury from gold.

Dr. Gaschler calls attention to the similarity of his work to that of a British physicist, J. J. Manley, who succeeded in inducing helium to form a chemical union with mercury by bombarding mercury with a stream of helium atoms. Helium had long been known as one of the most inert of the elements, never forming compounds with any of the others.

He is of the opinion that if his results are confirmed upon further repetitions and refinements, they will lend support to Dr. Miethe and Dr. Hantaro Nagaoka, whose claims that they changed mercury into gold have been subjected lately to skeptical criticism.

DISEASED TEETH THOUGHT CAUSE OF NEURITIS

Bodily ills can sometimes be laid at the door of our already long suffering teeth, Dr. Lewellys F. Barker of Johns Hopkins Hospital has reported to the Maryland State Dental Association.

Closer cooperation between the dental and medical professions is necessary, he declared, to ascertain just how far mouth infections are responsible for disturbances to the general bodily health. Neuritis, several varieties of rheumatism, nephritis, inflammation of the eye and secondary anemias were cited as conditions that frequently appeared as sequels of primary infection in another part of the body.

Dr. Barker considers that there has been a great deal of over-emphasis upon the importance of such focal infections and he scores heavily the present day tendency toward the wholesale removal of teeth without well grounded justification. It is particularly difficult to reach a conclusion in such cases, he said, because the infections of the mouth region are a secondary cause of the accompanying disturbances unlike the diseases where a specific organism is the culprit. There has in consequence been much doubt and speculation and considerable experimentation. This is the reason, according to Dr. Barker, why this field has been so accessible to over-enthusiastic, insufficiently experienced practitioners.

To keep the middle path of sanity between faddish diagnosis and culpable failure of recognition of important disease processes is difficult but necessary, he declared, to every member of either profession. If the public is to reap the fruits of the knowledge that actually exists in regard to the relation of mouth infections to other bodily disturbances, the leaders in both branches must exert to the utmost their protective influence against the practices of certain members of their respective professions.

In the present state of knowledge of the whole subject, he continued, it is very difficult to decide conclusively when a tooth should be removed and when it

should be retained. Both professions should be very cautious to avoid premature application of findings that are not supported by sound observation and experimental evidence.

Dr. Barker concludes with a decided rap at what he calls pseudo-research in medicine and its special branches including dentistry. The general haste to rush into print with results that are not sound is harmful to both the public and the less well informed practitioners. The intellect and imagination of the research worker should be of high order and the work should be under the direction of experienced investigators. The mistakes of work so conducted will be fewer and less serious than those of workers of less ability and experience.

The face of the medical profession generally should be set against pseudo-research that is irresponsibly undertaken and is inaccurately conducted, declared Dr. Barker. It is, he said, a degradation to science and misleading to the public that the true scientist tries to serve.

SALMON FOUND GOOD GOITER PREVENTIVE

Canned salmon is the latest addition to the list of "healthy" foods we are urged to eat. N. D. Jarvis and Drs. R. W. Clough and E. E. Clark of Seattle report to the American Medical Association that salmon, both fresh and canned, on account of the amount of iodine it contains, should be as effective a preventive of simple goiter as milk products, fruits and leafy vegetables.

Analysis of various foods undertaken at the University of Washington shows that while several sea foods such as seaweed, oyster and lobsters, have more iodine than salmon, the latter is the cheapest and most available food of a high iodine content on the market.

STATIC RECORDED BY AUTOMATIC INSTRUMENT

Most radio fans are not sufficiently fond of static to want to keep a careful record of it, but since the intelligibility of a radio signal in a receiving set is determined by the ratio of the strength of the signal to the intensity of static, radio engineers want to know its ups and downs.

In a new instrument devised by H. T. Friis, an engineer in the Bell Telephone Laboratories, the static is made to write its own record.

Instead of measuring directly the amount of static, Mr. Friis uses a specially constructed receiving set in which the output, due to the static, is kept constant. This is done by an amplifying system which increases or decreases the amplification according to the weakness or strength of the static. Such a system is necessary, rather than a constant amount of amplification with measurement of the output, because the static varies so greatly in strength. According to Mr. Friis, the change