

volcanoes and more frequent earthquakes. That no building ruins are found in seismic regions is believed by the Mexican scientist to be proof that the Mayas purposely never built their great buildings where they knew earthquakes would endanger them.

Having slowly developed to the stage of building in stone, this ancient people moved toward Yucatan and finally to its northern extremity, he declares. Yucatan is free from volcanic and earthquake movements and therefore, Dr. Gamio believes, not only did the ancients migrate there for that reason after a period of development in Guatemala, but their engineering and architectural art was able to reach its high state because of that freedom.

Dr. Gamio also unearthed primitive stone monuments, some plain, some lightly carved, which indicate to him that the ancients, having come from a section where such stelae are not found, developed this art first in Guatemala. The intricately carved stelae or columns of the ruined cities of Yucatan, generally bearing human statues in relief, were an important branch of Maya art. The form and treatment of the early Guatemala stelae, both plain and carved, clearly show they were the first of these monuments, Dr. Gamio claims. The Archaic art of the Valley of Mexico and the finished style of the Mayas are plainly connected through the Archaic of Guatemala, he asserts.

Dr. Gamio's expedition was to decide two theories he had long advocated: that of the migration of the ancestors of the Mayas from central Mexico into Yucatan via Guatemala and the direct connection of the two cultures, and that the Mayas were students of seismic and volcanic action and studiously avoided building stone cities in earthquake sections. He also wished to demonstrate that malaria, which it has been declared was introduced into the New World from the Old, possibly of an Italian origin, existed in the Americas in olden times. He states that he found no malaria in the high regions, but other proof existed of the occurrence here of malaria, and that the Indians have, in the course of untold centuries, become to a great extent immune.

Dr. Gamio published the report of his findings in the Society's journal and also announced a totally new theory bearing on the stratigraphical occurrence of the several archeological types. He divides the cultures into the Classical Archaic, Neo-Archaic, Transitional and developed Maya.

NEW TREATMENT FOR CANCER USES EXTRACT OF LIVER

Liver extract is the latest addition to the long list of weapons with which medical science seeks to stem the rising cancer death rate.

The work with liver extract, which in the United States has been used with some success in treating high blood pressures, was initiated by Dr. John R. Howitt of the medical school at the University of Western Ontario. He based his theory on the fact that since the liver is disproportionately large during embryonic life, when it does not secrete bile, it must have some other function. Its relatively large size suggested that it might exercise some influence on the extraordinary growth that the human body undergoes during the embryonic period. As cancer is a manifestation of abnormal cellular growth, Dr. Howitt decided that the effect of the active principle

of liver on such a growth would be worth trying.

In his first experiments he injected extracts from the livers of pig embryos into cancerous mice. The results were so encouraging that liver extracts, this time from beef, were tried on hopeless cases of human cancer too far gone for operation.

"In one patient there was a complete disappearance of the tumor mass," says Dr. Howitt in a report of his results to the scientific journal, Nature, "in others still under treatment a reduction in the size of the growth has been noted. In every case the progress of the disease has been arrested and the life of the patient prolonged beyond that of the prognosis given before the treatment commenced. No radical claims are advanced for this treatment, but the results obtained clinically have warranted a more extensive investigation which is now being carried out at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ont., and the McGregor-Mowbray Clinic at Hamilton."

Though the advance is slow, the concentrated forces of scientific research are closing in on modern humanity's most dreaded plague. The lead treatment of Prof. Blair Bell of Liverpool has likewise made considerable progress in the last few months, it is announced. Sufficient improvement has been made in the form of lead used by Prof. Bell to warrant its being put on the market in both England and the United States in the near future, according to latest reports from his laboratory at the University of Liverpool. Formerly the great drawback of the method was due to the fact that the particular preparation of lead that gave the best results was so unstable that its curative properties would only last a short time.

A limited number of physicians who wish to take up this work will be trained by Prof. Bell in the technique of administering colloidal lead, so that this new treatment will now become available to greater numbers of sufferers. In spite of its improvement, however, on account of the poisonous character of all lead compounds, only cases on which all usual methods are powerless will be accepted for treatment.

GRASS CLOTH MAY RIVAL COTTON GOODS

The secret of turning tropical grasses and other fibrous substances into clothes to wear is believed to have been solved by Dr. Dinshaw Nanji of Birmingham University. Chemical processes are said to have been perfected for separating the fibers from the raw materials and preparing them for spinning. The fabrics, if commercially successful, may take the place of cotton in the regions where large supplies of grasses are available. It is thought that new and interesting materials may be developed for wearing apparel and other uses.
