

TB Vaccine Saves Babies

Safeguarding the babies is the line along which the French have made outstanding progress in cutting into the tuberculosis death rate.

Tuberculosis inoculation has reduced infant mortality to less than one in a hundred during the first years of life. Dr. B. Weill-Halle, of the College of Medicine at the University of Paris, told health workers attending the National Tuberculosis Association meeting at Washington this week. The mortality among children of the same age who had not been vaccinated and reared under the same conditions in tubercular families, declared Dr. Weill-Halle, was at least twenty-five per hundred.

The tuberculosis vaccine used on babies in the Paris slums was the famous BCG originated by Prof. Albert Calmette of the Pasteur Institute. The vaccine is not a cure for the disease but careful experiments with calves and monkeys, as well as babies, show that vaccinated individuals will not contract the disease even when in close contact with severe cases for a period of three years or longer.

Cooperation with physicians and medical workers in other countries have enabled the French scientists to determine that the process is harmless and that it does prevent new-born babies inoculated during the first few hours of life from contracting the disease from tubercular mothers.

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FINE ARTS—METALLURGY

Chinese Have Iron Pictures

China has blacksmith artists who make landscapes and flowers out of the same metal that goes into wagon tires and horseshoes.

The making of iron pictures is an old craft still practiced, which enjoyed a considerable vogue under the regime of the Manchus, according to a report to the Yenching School of Oriental Studies.

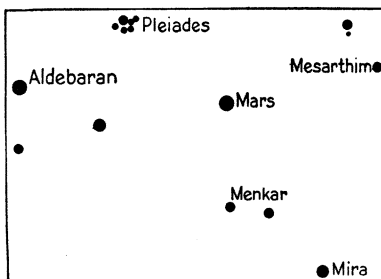
A skilled smith, it is said, can produce pictures which rival in beauty and delicacy of line the ink drawings after which they are modeled. They are either mounted in frames with paper or silk beneath or are set in windows as a part of the decorative scheme of a room.

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Government forest experts estimate that tree growth on the nine million acres of swamp forest in the Lake states could be doubled or trebled by partial drainage.

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Look For Mars Tonight



After a summer in which the planet, Mars, has been a conspicuous object in the early morning sky, it has now moved around so that one does not need to stay out late, or get up early, to see it. The above map shows its position with respect to the neighboring stars, which are now visible low in the eastern sky about ten o'clock. The red color of Mars and its brightness makes it easy to identify. The star Aldebaran is also reddish, but not nearly as bright as Mars.

On the night of October 15, Mars is only 43,728,000 miles from the earth, and on the 27th it will be 42,624,200 miles away, closer than it has been since the summer of 1924. It will then be closer than it will for many years to come. Though Mars is now a little farther away than it was in 1924, when it came within 34,637,400 miles, most astronomers can see it better now than they could then. At that time, for observers in northern countries, where most of the observatories are located, it was low in the sky, so that atmospheric conditions interfered with it more than now, when it is much higher in the sky. This more than compensates for the increased distance.

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Rubber From Florida?

Considerable excitement has been aroused among the rubber experts of the United States Department of Agriculture over the discovery by O. F. Cook, Department rubber expert, of a twenty-five-year-old Brazilian rubber tree growing in a yard at Palm Beach, Florida. While they decline to state that this indicates the possibility of large-scale rubber plantation operations in the United States proper the mere existence of this tree so far out of the equatorial zone hitherto thought to be its only possible home gives rise to suggestions which they think should be acted upon at once.

In its native home in the Amazon valley, as well as in the plantations of Indomalaya, the Brazilian rubber tree sticks very close to the equator, where the normal cool nights and the occasional frosts of the Florida climate are unknown. Experimental plantations of rubber seedlings in Florida twenty years ago all came to grief, and last winter an unusual cold snap severely injured most of the seedlings at the Department of Agriculture's experimental farm at Coconut Grove, and killed a part of them outright. It has therefore been assumed that the Brazilian species is extra-sensitive to cold and would not survive in even a sub-tropical climate. To all this, the discovery of a twenty-foot-high tree, with a trunk between three and four inches thick, has proven very upsetting.

An outcome of this indication of hardiness on the part of at least some of the Brazilian trees, of more practical and immediate importance than attempts to grow rubber in Florida, will be the investigation of the possible adaptability of the species for cultivation in the border-line tropics, such as Mexico and the West Indies.

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STUDY HELPS FOR SCIENCE CLASSES

(These articles will be found to be especially useful in class work.)

GENERAL SCIENCE

Expensive Foods Preferred, p. 19. Look for Mars Tonight, p. 25. Tense Muscles Aid Thinking, p. 27. 50,000 To 1—Earth, p. 29. Anniversaries of Science, p. 31. Articles marked with * in classifications below.

CHEMISTRY

Hydrogen Becomes Helium,* p. 21.

HYGIENE

Babies and Tetanus, p. 19. TB Vaccine Saves Babies, p. 25.

BIOLOGY

Jungle Speaks Again on Man's Pre-Human Relatives,* p. 17. Driving a Half Million Horses,* p. 19. Fight 'Anti-Evolution Law,' p. 19. Ichthyologist and Pacifist, p. 21. TB Vaccine Saves Babies,* p. 25. Rubber from Florida? p. 25. Nature Ramblings, p. 27. Golfers Fight Grubs, p. 27.

PHYSICS

Driving a Half Million Horses,* p. 19. Hydrogen Becomes Helium,* p. 21. Sun's Active Rays Increase, p. 21. Color Symphony Concerts, p. 21.

(This will fit on a 3 x 5 card.)

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