

## MEDICINE

**Seek African Yellow Fever**

Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, the well-known bacteriologist of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, is en route for Lagos, Nigeria, to investigate the yellow fever that has been prevalent on the west coast of Africa for several months.

Dr. Noguchi will work in collaboration with the staff of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation at Lagos which has been working on the African yellow fever problem for some time. It is due to the efforts of the International Health Board that this once widely distributed disease has been almost entirely eliminated in the western hemisphere except for isolated cases in the interior of Brazil and other countries of South America. Every effort is being made to stamp out the fatal insect-borne malady before it gains a wider foothold in Africa or can spread to the Orient.

Dr. Noguchi already has to his credit a preventive vaccine and a curative serum for yellow fever developed in the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute several years

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## PSYCHOLOGY

**Psychology Booming**

"In the past 35 years, the number of American workers in psychology has increased to an extent perhaps without parallel in any other science or in any other country," declared Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, psychologist and editor of *Science*, in an address before the distinguished group of psychologists present at the inauguration of a psychological laboratory at Wittenberg College.

Chemistry is the earliest and psychology is the latest of the laboratory sciences, Dr. Cattell said. The very first laboratory for research and teaching of science was a chemistry laboratory opened by Justus von Liebig, at Geissen, Germany, in 1824. The first psychology laboratory was established by the German psychologist Wilhelm Wundt about 1879.

Dr. Cattell described his experiences as a student at Leipzig under the famous Wundt. In his reminiscences Wundt wrote that the young American student Cattell approached him and declared: "Herr Professor, you need an assistant, and I shall be your assistant."

Prof. Wundt's books on psychol-

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## MEDICINE

**Soda As Cold Preventive**

That old familiar remedy, baking soda, has found a new use as a preventive for the common cold. Dr. Volney S. Cheney, medical director in one of the large packing firms of Chicago, has reported to the American Public Health Association.

Eleven years spent in an exhaustive study of colds have convinced Dr. Cheney that this too common malady is not infectious, as is commonly believed. The organisms usually regarded as the causative factor in colds are only secondary invaders in the later stages, he declared.

The primary cause he ascribed to be a condition of mild acidosis that is brought about by too much protein in the diet, lack of exercise and infections already present anywhere in the body. Dr. Cheney maintained that colds can be prevented and even cured by keeping an alkaline balance in the body through proper diet and carefully regulated doses of sodium bicarbonate or alkaline waters along with small quantities of calcium and iodine.

"My experience of many years," said Dr. Cheney, "among the aborigines of the southwest convinces me that colds, as we know them, are a product of civilization.

"The infectious origin of a cold is only an unproven theory, and a theory based upon a false premise because in the early stages of a cold the secretions, from the nose particularly, are frequently sterile and the organisms usually regarded as being the causative factor are only secondary invaders of the latter stages.

"Climatic variations are a contributing factor only so far as they inhibit our normal activities and decrease our utilization of protein foods which are always in excess of what we normally require. We eat too much and exercise too little in cold weather. Colds are less frequent in warm weather because we eat less of high protein foods and exercise more.

"The time of greatest incidence of colds in our industry is on a Monday and days following holidays, and also days following banquets or parties where there is an abundance of good things to eat. I have also observed that colds are very prevalent in our traveling salesmen, or men who are on the road a great deal. After these trips, upon inquiry, I have ascertained that always while traveling there has been a decided change in the daily routine com-

pared to the one they maintain while at home; a proneness to over-eating of high protein foods and sometimes over-drinking of alcoholic stimulants; increased mental strain; lack of proper exercise and loss of sleep."

Statistics show that about 45 per cent. of absenteeism in most of our large industries is caused by colds or their after effects, Dr. Cheney added.

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## SOCIOLOGY

**Mexican Exodus**

The wholesale immigration wave from the Rio Grande north is perplexing Mexico as well as the United States, for if the exodus continues to increase as it has in the last 20 years, the whole population of Mexico will have moved out in fifty years, unless figures lie.

Dr. Manuel Gamio, who has just returned to Mexico City from the United States, says the possible consequences are enormous for both countries. Certain industries in the United States depend on Mexican labor, and Mexican labor needs the jobs. At the same time Mexico is losing a large proportion of her best laborers, a thing which she can hardly afford.

In 1900 there were only 100,000 Mexican immigrants in the United States, but this number has increased in almost geometrical proportion, until this year it is about 1,000,000. Mexico's total population is only about 15,000,000 and her laboring population a still smaller per cent. of this number.

Dr. Gamio has been in Jalisco, Michoacan and Guanajuato, the states from which the greatest exodus occurs, and has made a social study of the underlying causes there. He has also spent much time in the United States where he has studied the condition of the absentee workers in California, Texas, New Mexico, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and New York, the most popular goals for the emigrants.

Perhaps Mexico is movie-mad, and whether this angle of the problem has been studied by scientists was not stated. A short conversation with the average Mexican reveals that he wants to go to the United States, and that Hollywood would be his goal. American movies have penetrated into the farthest sierras of Mexico, and possibly the wide clean streets of Los Angeles showing on the silver screen are too much competition for the little Mexican villages of mud huts and cactus.

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### African Yellow Fever

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ago. According to reports received by the French Academy of Medicine this treatment was used with considerable success in an outbreak in Senegal during the past summer.

On account of the lack of transportation and other difficulties in the way of carrying out a scientific program of disease control in a primitive tropical country, the work of the International Health Board has been confined to the British colonies of Nigeria and the Gold Coast. Scientists hope these researches will lead to new light on this highly fatal disease that will eventually bring about its eradication from the face of the globe.

On his return trip, Dr. Noguchi expects to visit Egypt to study trachoma, a disease of the eye, widely prevalent there. What is believed to be the causative organism of this eye infection was recently isolated by Dr. Noguchi from the eyes of an American Indian, a race in which trachoma is commonly found in this country.

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### Psychology Booming

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ogy, which ran from 900 to 3,000 pages, were composed on a typewriter given him by Dr. Cattell, one of the first typewriters in Germany.

The great Wundt, although kindly and genial, had no sympathy with the young American's ideas that psychology might be put to useful applications, so Dr. Cattell transferred his work to his own rooms and there made the first psychological measurements of individual differences and began to do pioneer work in applied psychology.

"The second laboratory of psychology was American, organized by Dr. G. Stanley Hall at Johns Hopkins University in 1883," Dr. Cattell said.

The new laboratory at Wittenberg College will be directed by Prof. Martin J. Reymert, formerly of the University of Oslo.

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The Bureau of Standards has been studying ways of making apartment house and office walls more sound-proof.

The London Zoo has received from Trinidad three giant centipedes over a foot long, with poisonous claws and fangs.