

Risked Life to Prove Theory

Medicine

Dr. Joseph Goldberger, hunger fighter, surgeon of the U. S. Public Health Service, has lost his last fight against disease. He died at the Naval Hospital on January 17, following an illness of several weeks. Dr. Goldberger did not succumb to pellagra, as reported erroneously in some accounts of his death. Sarcoma that had spread throughout his system was the cause of his death.

This modest, unassuming man saved thousands of lives and untold suffering among others, but he was unable to save his own life. Many times Dr. Goldberger risked his life, even courted disease and death for the sake of his fellowmen. This time disease came uncourted and death followed despite all the efforts of fellow scientists and his colleagues of the U. S. Public Health Service.

Dr. Goldberger was born in Austria-Hungary in 1874, coming to this country with his parents at the age of 6. Brought up in New York's lower East Side, this immigrant lad achieved the greatest public health research of any country within the last generation. His connection with the

U. S. Public Health Service started just twenty years after his arrival in the Promised Land, to which he contributed so much. His first work was the examination of immigrants at Ellis Island. Routine duty at other immigration stations and U. S. consulates followed. However, his unusual qualifications for research work were soon recognized and in 1904 he was attached to the Hygienic Laboratory at Washington. His connection with this branch of the service continued until his untimely death.

Dr. Goldberger's greatest contribution to science and to humanity was the discovery of the cause, cure and prevention of pellagra. This disease was not recognized in our country until 1907, but it had been known in Europe for hundreds of years. Other scientists had theorized and looked for germs and written countless treatises on the subject to no avail. Dr. Goldberger's love of humanity detected the clues which led to the solving of this distressing public health problem.

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Chemical Shorthand System Devised

Chemistry

A new system of chemical shorthand, which promises to be a time saver for stenographers and reporters who take chemical dictation, has been developed by Louis A. Leslie of New York City and Dr. C. A. Jacobson, professor of chemistry at West Virginia University. Thoroughly mastered, this system saves time and makes for greater accuracy in reporting.

Dr. Jacobson listed the names and symbols of all the chemical elements, as well as the acid radicals occurring in all but the most complex inorganic compounds, and he suggested that a distinctive shorthand character for each be made, in order to simplify their writing.

For the chemical elements and the initial set of radicals this has now been accomplished by Mr. Leslie. The Gregg shorthand character which has been ascribed to each is not only distinctive but easy to write, so that the salt obtained by the combination of any two of them may be represented by two characters instead of several as heretofore. For example, if a stenographer were obliged to write magnesium

pyrophosphate, ammonium thiomolybdate, or praseodymium thioaluminate he could do so by two simple characters for each instead of by four or more rather complex ones.

The lists thus far prepared cover the names of thousands of inorganic compounds, yet when the system is complete it will include the characteristic nomenclature in all the different fields of chemistry. It will also include shorthand characters for the numerous syllables, prefixes, and suffixes found in chemical nomenclature.

The chemist is now employing a well established system of shorthand to represent the names of elements by one or two letters called symbols, and compounds by small groups of these symbols called formulas, Prof. Jacobson explained. He also represents chemical reactions by equating the formulas representing the compounds reacting with the formulas of the compounds produced. The present proposed system of chemical shorthand goes still further by abbreviating the chemist's abbreviations.

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NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE

Natural History



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A Poor Weather Prophet

Winter will last six weeks longer. We shall have an early, pleasant spring. The coming of spring is a matter of doubt; it may be soon or it may be late.

All three of these prophecies are equally good, and they were all made by the same prophet in different parts of the country. For in places the day was clear, so that the groundhog saw his own shadow. Elsewhere it was cloudy, so that he didn't see it. And in still other localities the weather was partly cloudy, so that we don't know whether he saw the shadow or not.

As a matter of fact, even where he saw his shadow plainly, it's only an even-money bet that he was right and where he didn't see it at all the same odds hold. Meteorologists who have made a statistical examination of the weather records for years back have found that there is no discernible correlation between the state of the sky on February 2 and the state of the weather for six weeks thereafter.

Anyway, the groundhog doesn't care at all about the wagging heads or the arguing tongues. He's getting in the last sound licks of his beauty sleep, which began some time last fall. And he'll come out, shadow or no shadow, when he gets good and ready, and not before.

The groundhog is the same animal we call the woodchuck. He has another alias, marmot, which has been adopted as his scientific name, latinized into *Marmotus*. There are three main species of him on this continent, split up into numerous subspecies by naturalists who know their groundhogs. The lowland species are, respectively, the common or red-haired marmot and the yellow-bellied marmot. Up in the Rockies there is a bigger animal, the hoary marmot or rock-chuck, which lives in among the tumbled rocks on (*Turn to next page*)