

## Radium for Mme. Curie

For the past few weeks America has been hostess to the greatest woman scientist the world has ever known. Mme. Marie Curie, co-discoverer of radium, came here to accept a second gift of a gram of the precious substance from her friends and admirers in this country.

When the first gram was presented to her, in 1921, she turned it over to the Curie Institute of the University of Paris. The second gram will be given to the Warsaw Cancer Hospital, which since 1921 has rented a gram, Mme. Curie herself paying the rental with the income of a money gift she received with the first gram of radium. Warsaw is Mme. Curie's native city, although she has worked and lived most of her life in Paris.

Mme. Curie and her husband, Pierre Curie, discovered this rare and valuable element, but they scorned to make any personal profit from their discovery. They gave it to the public together with the methods they evolved for producing radium. These same methods are in use today in the radium industry. For years these great and generous scientists struggled with a meager income and without even an adequate laboratory. Pierre Curie, struck by a truck, died in 1906 without ever having a proper laboratory in which to use his great talents.

Mme. Curie finally acquired the laboratory, planned too late for her husband to enjoy, in the Curie Institute. However, the small supply of radium in her laboratory was needed by the government during the war, and after the armistice she found herself without any of the precious substance. Then her admirers and friends in America came to the rescue with the gram of radium and the money which was meant to make living conditions easier for this great woman who had been in most straitened circumstances. Characteristically, she used it to rent radium for the Warsaw Cancer Hospital.

*Science News-Letter, October 26, 1929*

## Pavlov Honored

Prof. Ivan Pavlov, who recently attended the international congresses of physiology and psychology in this country, received a gift of \$50,000 for his laboratory as an eightieth birthday gift from the Soviet government when he returned to Leningrad. The government also closed to traffic a street, the noise from which might interfere with his experiments.

*Science News-Letter, October 26, 1929*

The most rapid readers do not pronounce the words mentally but read wholly or almost wholly with the eyes, according to a Columbia University professor.

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## Island Disappears

A volcanic island formed last year by a submarine eruption in Sunda strait, near Verlatern Island, Java, has now disappeared beneath the sea, the U. S. Hydrographic Office has been informed by the Dutch authorities.

*Science News-Letter, October 26, 1929*

A decoy duck made and used by prehistoric Indian hunters has been found in a cave in Nevada.

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