

Indians Pulled Teeth

Indians who lived in New Mexico in prehistoric times, in the centuries before Christ, practiced tooth extraction. This is the conclusion of modern dental scientists who have examined a collection of jaws of pre-Pueblo Indians. It is considered likely that the Indians had some instrument made of hard wood for this dental operation, for none of the teeth which were removed from the jaws had been loose enough to remove with the fingers alone.

The discovery is of importance since no primitive people have been heretofore known to adopt this simple procedure for the relief of pain. The ancient Egyptians, who were surprisingly advanced in some of their surgical knowledge and surprisingly ignorant in other surgical fields, did not know how to pull teeth, although their teeth show that they must have suffered agonies at times.

Science News-Letter, October 26, 1929

Worms 11 Feet Long

Earthworms longer than a man and an inch in diameter are reported in the British scientific magazine *Nature* as the quarry of a naturalist's hunt in southeastern Australia. Average specimens range from four to six feet in length, and one nine feet long was observed by Charles Barrett, member of the expedition. An extreme length of eleven feet was reported, though not seen, on this expedition.

Science News-Letter, October 26, 1929

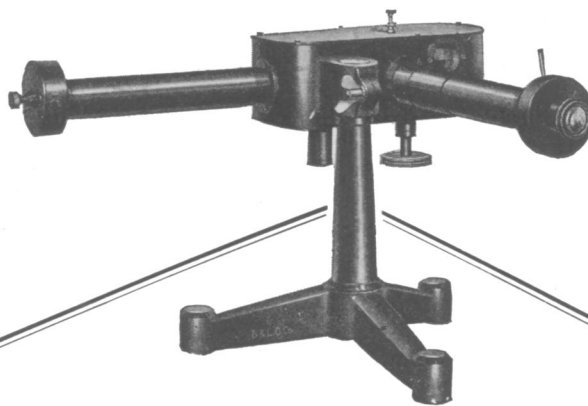
Prehistoric Deafness

We think of the Indian as sharp of vision, keen of hearing and swift of foot, yet many of America's aborigines were blind and stone deaf.

The subject is being investigated for the American Medical Association, and preliminary results show that the growth of small, hard, ivory-like tumors in the outer ear passages prevent the entrance of sound waves. Such tumors, called osteomata, have been seen in the ear passages of Indians from Arkansas, New Mexico, the San Nicolas Island off the California coast, and abundantly in Peru.

Only a surgical operation could secure relief, and while some of the aborigines, especially the ancient Peruvians, were expert head surgeons, none attempted the removal of the tumors and the restoration of hearing. Tumors of this kind today are very rare, some ear specialists never having seen one. The cause of the growth of the ancient tumors is being investigated.

Science News-Letter, October 26, 1929



The Bausch & Lomb

Wavelength Spectrometer

Designed to meet the needs of the routine worker, this Bausch & Lomb No. 2675 Wavelength Spectrometer, the same in principle as our Large Spectrometer No. 2700 but simpler in construction, is especially adapted to perform this function because of the following features:

- 1 The optical surfaces and moving parts are completely enclosed to protect them against dust and corrosion. This insures uniformly accurate and enduring service.
- 2 A constant deviation prism of the Abbe type.
- 3 The graduations on the drum range from 4000 to 8000 Angstroms and may be read from the eyepiece position.
- 4 The telescope and collimator are permanently aligned at right angles to each other.
- 5 It is built to conform to the B & L standards of precision and craftsmanship.

Write for complete information on this model and other spectroscopes

Bausch & Lomb Optical Company

697 Saint Paul Street

Rochester, N. Y.