

those used by Columbus. This part of the map, moreover, is specifically ascribed by its maker to "Colonbo," which is a variant by only one letter from his original Italian name, "Colombo," the one-letter shift being due, perhaps, to the Spanish rendition, "Colon."

In an endeavor to account for a copy of Columbus' 1498 map being in the hands of the Turks, who were of course enemies of all Christendom at that time, Prof. Kahle has traced in Turkish records the fact that an uncle of Piri Re'is had owned a Spanish slave, captured with some Spanish ships in the western Mediterranean. This Spaniard claimed to have made several voyages with Columbus. Prof. Kahle thinks it not improbable that the Turks may have taken a copy of the 1498 map from the captured ship, and that this copy was in turn copied by Piri Re'is on his map of 1513.

One feature of the Re'is map may throw a little additional light on the still-disputed matter of Columbus' nationality. A group of islands is designated as "the islands of the eleven virgins"; and "eleven" is given in Italian, "undici," not in Spanish, "once."

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#### PSYCHIATRY

### Suicide Increase Not All Due to Depression

**T**HE INCREASE in the number of suicides in the United States cannot all be blamed on the depression, in the opinion of statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. While admitting that the depression has undoubtedly had its effect, they point out that the rise in the suicide rate started as early as 1925 and continued through the prosperous time in 1927, 1928, and part of 1929.

The most pronounced increase came between 1929 and 1930. The figures for the industrial policy holders of the company are still below what they were before the World War. During the war years there was a declining suicide rate, due to the fact that people were finding life a great adventure and had less desire to leave it.

The personality of the individual rather than external and environmental factors is considered important in leading to suicide. Therefore those who are concerned with reducing the number of suicides should train such individuals to become more stable. This is declared to be a community responsibility.

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#### PUBLIC HEALTH

## Three-Fourths of Cancer Group Succumb in First Five Years

**A** SURVEY of 1,802 cancer patients treated in seven Philadelphia hospitals in 1923 found slightly more than one-tenth of the group alive six years later. If the patient is alive and well five years after treatment for cancer, the treatment is considered successful by cancer specialists.

Results of the Philadelphia survey, which was made by Dr. Arthur H. Estabrook of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, are made public by the *American Journal of Cancer*. Dr. Estabrook was able to secure information about approximately nine-tenths of the cases treated in seven general hospitals of Philadelphia in 1923. His survey showed these additional facts:

Nearly one-fifth of all patients admitted to the hospitals died in the hospital within a few months after treatment.

Of the 1,802 patients treated for cancer in 1923, 191 were alive six years later. Of these, in turn, 170 were in good condition, while 21 were in poor condition.

The group of patients suffering from skin cancer showed the highest proportion alive at the end of five years. The bone cancer group showed the next highest proportion of five-year survivors, and the other types of cancers showed the following order: cancer of the mouth, cancer of the breast and cancer of the womb.

Three-fourths of the entire group were known to be dead six years after treatment. A little over half of the total group, 957, died of cancer, within one year following treatment.

Nearly one-half of the group delayed one year before seeking treatment. Only a small number, 3.5 per cent. of the total, went for treatment within one month after noticing that something was wrong.

"The period of delay, without consideration of other factors in the life history of the cancer, seems to have little correlation with the end-result of treatment," Dr. Estabrook found.

Nearly a third of those alive delayed more than one year before receiving treatment. About one-fifth of those who died received the first treatment within three months of first noticing the condi-

tion. More than a third of those who died received treatment within six months following the first symptoms.

Treatment by X-ray or radium was used in 810 cases. Radiation combined with surgery was used in 653 cases, and surgery alone was used in 336 cases.

Conclusions could not be drawn as to the effectiveness of the methods of treatment, Dr. Estabrook pointed out, because of insufficient data.

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#### METALLURGY

### Indium Output May Soon Reach Ten Pounds a Year

**I**NDIUM, metal so extremely rare that its price at present is ten times that of platinum, is becoming available in larger quantity. New ore sources have been discovered in America, and these, together with older known deposits in Germany, yield enough raw material to encourage expectations that the annual output of the finished metal, of 99.9 per cent. purity, will soon reach five kilograms, or a little over ten pounds.

Because it has hitherto been scarce almost to the point of unobtainability, the possible uses of indium are still practically unknown. But with ten pounds a year in sight, chemists are looking forward to researches on it.

One thing is known about indium at present: its salts are not poisonous to human beings. In this it differs from almost all of the other heavier metals. For this reason it may find important uses in medicine.

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#### BOTANY

### Rare Plant Rediscovered In Western Texas Creek

**O**NE OF THE RAREST plant species in the world has been rediscovered in Madera Creek, in the Davis Mountains of western Texas, by Dr. R. A. Studhalter of Texas Technological College at Lubbock. Dr. Studhalter has reported his find to the *Scientific Monthly*.

The plant is known as *Riella*, and has