



BALL LIGHTNING "LOOKS PLEASANT"

along a pair of high voltage power lines for a hundred feet or more, then bounced down on the ground and disappeared with a loud report.

Prof. Jensen's photographs showed these strange and weirdly beautiful objects plainly. Knowing the lens-angles of his cameras and the distance to the power line, he was able to calculate their size. One of them had a diameter of about 28 feet, and the other was some 42 feet across. These figures are much larger than those usually given for ball lightning.

A second ball-lightning display reported by Prof. Jensen was seen during a tornado in Iowa by George Raveling, a U. S. Weather Bureau observer. As he described it:

"From the sides of the boiling, dust-laden cloud a fiery stream poured out like water through a sieve, breaking into spheres of irregular shape as they descended. No streak lightning of the usual type was observed and no noise attended the fire-balls other than the usual roar of the storm."

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The Pan American Scientific Congress, which was to be held in Mexico City this month has been postponed until 1935.

A cave-city on the Crimean peninsula is to be scientifically explored by a Russian institution and the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

MEDICINE

# Tropical Climate Benefits Heart and Rheumatic Diseases

## Society For Tropical Medicine Also Hears That Southern Immigrants in North Succumb To Hardening of Arteries

**A** TROPICAL climate may be used in the conquest of some diseases. Weather of the north weakens southern immigrants to certain types of infection. These curious disease-climate relations were reported to the American Society for Tropical Medicine meeting in Richmond this week.

Patients suffering from inflammatory rheumatism and heart disease may be benefitted by a tropical climate, it appears from a discussion of the advantages of cure resorts in the tropics presented at the meeting by Drs. Louis Faugeres Bishop and Louis Faugeres Bishop, Jr., of New York City.

"We know that climate has a profound influence on the lives of those who enjoy its advantages, but one of the most striking facts in connection with climate is that it is not only the climate itself we look to for benefit, but equally important is change of climate at the right time," Dr. Bishop said.

He suggested that a tropical climate should be available for physicians to order for their patients and that eventually it may be possible to determine by experiment the climate best suited to each person.

The absence of inflammatory rheumatism in the tropics, testified to by many observers, prompted Dr. Bishop's interest in the health advantages of a tropical climate. He thinks it should be tested for young people with progressive rheumatic heart disease and for elderly people with disease of the heart of the degenerative type. Many of the drawbacks of the tropics can be mitigated with modern air conditioning.

"The climate of the tropics promotes all those things which are needed in heart disease," said Dr. Bishop. "It promotes distaste for physical exercise. It is a notable fact that many heart patients who go to the tropics to pass their remaining days find those days very much longer than anybody expected."

He advised that the health resort established in the tropics should be properly equipped with a medical per-

sonnel and technical facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Southerners who migrate to the North are more susceptible than northerners to arteriosclerosis, familiarly known as hardening of the arteries, in the opinion of Dr. Clarence A. Mills of the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Mills presented figures which he said proved this point. Calling arteriosclerosis the "greatest of our degenerative diseases," Dr. Mills said that "these southern migrants die at a much earlier age from this cause than do native northerners and also earlier than their fellowmen who remain in the South."

"The great influx of southerners, both white and colored, into the manufacturing cities of the North during the last fifteen years has presented us some important health problems quite aside from those of sanitation and personal hygiene," he stated.

"Not only are these migrants found more susceptible to acute respiratory diseases such as pneumonia, sinusitis and colds, but they also show frequent metabolic disturbances. Toxic goiter and diabetes seem to attack them even more than they do native northerners. Various types of asthenia (weakness) with nervous exhaustion are also particularly common among them."

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▼ **TULAREMIA**

**R** an address by

**A** Dr. Edward Francis

**D** —of the National Institute of Health

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Wednesday, November 22, at 4:35 p. m., Eastern Standard Time, over Stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Each week a prominent scientist speaks over the Columbia System under the auspices of Science Service.