

is designed either directly or indirectly to develop warfare gases. The statement was forthcoming in a reply to a Science Service query.

"No research here is directly or indirectly designed to develop warfare gases," said Dr. Frederick G. Keyes, head of the M. I. T. department of

chemistry. "Dr. George H. Cady long has been working on fluorine compounds on a purely scientific basis. The fact that this and many commonly used gases are poisonous is no indication whatever that they are developed for warfare."

Science News Letter, September 15, 1934

PUBLIC HEALTH

Dysentery Is Threatening Health of the Nation

AMEBIC dysentery continues to threaten the health of the American people, in the opinion of Dr. F. W. O'Connor of Columbia University who pointed out the importance of tropical diseases in the United States at the meeting of the American Public Health Association at Pasadena.

"In the future greater attention should be paid to the question of amebic dysentery because the usual number of carriers of the parasite in this country has doubtless been augmented by a number of persons in different parts of the states who became carriers as the result of the Chicago outbreak but did not develop symptoms," Dr. O'Connor explained.

From six to twelve million persons in the United States are subjects of this disease, Dr. Alfred C. Reed of the University of California Medical School gave as an estimate.

Two-Fold Danger

The danger from carriers of amebic dysentery is two-fold, Dr. O'Connor pointed out. Not only are they probably spreading the disease to others who may become seriously ill but the carriers themselves may at any time develop the disease in malignant form. Development of liver abscess as a result of amebic dysentery infection is a particularly grave complication which threatens the so-called healthy carrier and the apparently cured case, Dr. O'Connor said. He emphasized the danger of relapse in patients who had been treated and apparently cured of the disease.

The recent epidemic in Chicago shows that the very progress of mankind may not only bring new evils in its train but may upset the biological balance between parasite and man, Dr. O'Connor said.

The Chicago epidemic was traced to sewage contamination of drinking water in two hotels as a result of faulty plumbing. But such conditions probably exist in other cities. Outbreaks of amebic dysentery as severe as the one in Chicago last year may occur in other parts of the country at any time, especially under conditions of guest strain such as large conventions bring, Dr. O'Connor said.

Science News Letter, September 15, 1934

ENGINEERING

Super-Power System For Great Britain

A PROPOSAL to link all the electrical generation plants of Great Britain into one super-power system is advanced by Prof. Francis G. Bailey. The scheme would make possible the use of the lowest grade coal and other forms of cheap power now wasted.

The cities of England, Prof. Bailey declared, are admirably adapted to such a plan for "to a large extent, the population has gathered around the coal pits, and there are practically no large towns, except seaports, that do not lie within easy reach."

The new plan calls for the use of the lowest grade and waste coal which now amounts to about 10 per cent. of all the coal raised in England. At present the waste coal must be used—if it is used at all—at or near the mines. A small part of it is employed to generate power for running the mines but much of it is burned, for this is the cheapest way to get rid of it.

Shipping such low grade coal to a point where it might better be used is uneconomical for it costs just as much to transport it as high grade coal and yet its heat-producing value is small.



ONE FOR EVERY PURPOSE

The meticulous golfer with his big bag of carefully matched sticks, one for every imaginable kind of lie, has nothing on this dusky Goajira Indian, of Colombia. No two of his arrows are alike, yet each is excellently adapted for a particular type of game—including human targets. Photo by A. J. Weston.

Under Prof. Baily's plan such low grade coal would be turned into electrical power at the mine head or at the place where coal is cleaned, and then sent over high-voltage transmission lines to all points. It is three times as cheap to transmit electrical power as it is to ship coal from which an equal amount of power may be derived, Prof. Baily points out.

Science News Letter, September 15, 1934

NEW INDUSTRIES FOR OLD

an address by

Dr. E. R. Weidlein

Director, Mellon Institute of Industrial Research

Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 3:30 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.