

that Dr. Maurice Brodie, of New York University, is using, while Dr. John A. Kolmer, of Temple University, Philadelphia, may be working with a virus which is still alive. Using monkeys, they infect them with the disease. The spinal cords are removed, ground up, and treated with a chemical to completely or partially devitalize the contained virus. Dr. Brodie uses formalin and Dr. Kolmer uses castor oil soap. Dr. W. T. Harrison, of the United States Public Health Service, is known to be working on a similar vaccine, but he has as yet made no report of procedure or results.

As yet the use of such vaccines is far from being a practical procedure. Even though medical men were quite

sure that there would be no danger in treating children with the vaccines, there is still the lack of a simple test for susceptibility to tell which children are already immune and which should be immunized.

Under present conditions it would be necessary to use one and sometimes two monkeys in testing each child: One monkey to tell whether the child's serum will destroy the virus; children whose serum did not possess this property would be immunized and a second monkey used to determine whether the serum had taken on this property. Since monkeys cost \$15 each, it is apparent that such a test could not be used on a large scale.

Science News Letter, September 22, 1934

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CHROMIUM AND THE STAINLESS STEELS

an address by

Dr. F. M. Becket

President of the Union Carbide and Carbon Research Laboratories, Inc.

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 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.

AGRICULTURE

Back to Land Movement No Solution for Farm Ills

FEWER people on the land, working shorter hours with modern machinery and other scientific aids, to operate bigger farms at a lower cost per bushel of grain or pound of meat produced: this was the somewhat unorthodox picture of real agricultural reform presented before the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science by Prof. J. A. S. Watson of Oxford University, president of the section on agriculture.

The strong movement to send people back to the land, in Prof. Watson's opinion, is based mainly on blind tradition and can find very little rational or economic support. But such ideas die hard, he admitted.

"It is still considered a meritorious thing to employ an agricultural laborer, but there is no particular feeling about the employment of barbers, haberdashers or electricians," he said. "It is somehow more honorable to plough a field than to let it lie in grass. It is a nobler thing to grow wheat (even if nobody wants to eat it) than peaches or strawberries.

Legacy From Past

"These notions are a legacy from the time when the world was hungry of necessity, and when people lived healthily in the country but died quickly in the towns. We must realize that these conditions have ceased to be. There is a superabundant organization for food

production and there is no difficulty about breeding up a good and healthy human stock in the modern city. It seems to me that there is no argument for keeping unnecessary workers in agriculture or for driving people back to the land."

Neither had Prof. Watson much respect for the various schemes on which nations are working, each to make itself agriculturally self-sufficient, and at the same time to boost its exports of farm products.

He flicked at these schemes a whip-lash of ironic comment:

"Some of these measures, indeed, are not so much rational means to assist agriculture as the weapons of economic warfare, in which apparently one of the

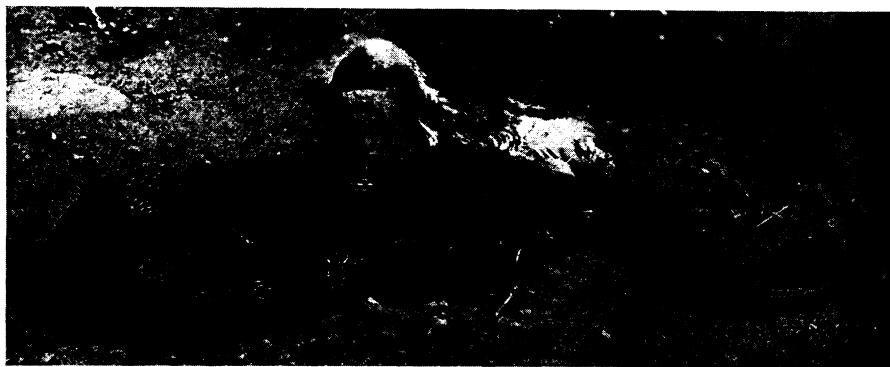
objects of strategy is to force upon the enemy more food than he can eat."

The complex of causes of the agricultural depression, as seen by Prof. Watson, has a striking resemblance to the same picture as viewed by the American Secretary of Agriculture, Henry Wallace, and the economists on his corps of assistants. Factors in the farmer's losing fight have included the continual opening up of rich new lands where grain could be produced at ever-decreasing costs, improved heavy-yielding crop plants and the overcoming of a lessening world demand in the face of this increasing world supply, a general slump in the whole economic set-up, currency value fluctuations resulting in a mounting burden of unpayable debt.

The principal weapon available to a planned agriculture, Dr. Watson felt, is greater efficiency per working unit—a larger output from fewer but better equipped and less overworked farmers.

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An albino elk, very rare, was seen this year in Glacier National Park.



FORGOTTEN ENMITIES

Even traditional enemies do not inspire fear, if they refrain from aggressive acts, as this water-snake did, at least for the time being. (See page 186)