

PHYSIOLOGY

Mother's Milk Found To Check Hemorrhage

MOTHER'S milk has a very special power to hasten the clotting of blood and therefore to control hemorrhage or bleeding, Prof. A. Solé reported recently to the Vienna Association of Physicians.

Curiously enough, animal milk does not have the same power to clot blood nor does colostrum, the preparatory milk secreted by the mammary glands during the first day or two after the birth of a baby.

Boiling the milk destroys the blood-clotting property, as the active substance, whatever it may be, cannot withstand heat. But the human milk may be dried and an extract of the powder used to check bleeding. This extends its usefulness, since a supply can be kept on hand for use when fresh human milk is not available.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1934

ASTRONOMY

Astronomers Uncertain Of Next Bright Comet

THOUGH dozens of comets have been observed through observatory telescopes in the last few years, and many more as bright are expected in the near future, astronomers do not know when one brilliant enough to be conspicuous to the eye will make its appearance. It is reasonable to expect "one or more great comets some time within the next fifty years but whether one will come next week or next year or not in the next ten years, no one can say." So reports Dr. Robert G. Aitken, director of the University of California's Lick Observatory. (*Astronomical Society of the Pacific Leaflet 69*).

During the nineteenth century, he states, "five comets of the first rank appeared and at least six others that were fairly brilliant." One of these was Halley's, which returned in 1835. Another was the Great Comet of 1882. Halley's made its next visit in 1910, and while astronomers have not yet calculated the exact position and date of its next return, which will depend upon the amount that it is pulled by the gravitational attraction of the planets, it is confidently expected about 1985.

All the other bright comets that have appeared in the past, says Dr. Aitken, have their periods "numbered in hun-

dreds of years, and not one is known well enough to permit the prediction of even an approximate date for its return. When one comes, it will come unheralded."

Astronomers will be able to study it with facilities not available previously, he declared. "The modern astrophysicists are far better equipped for observations in these lines than were the observers of the Great Comet of 1882 or even those of Halley's Comet in 1910. When the next great comet appears they will apply every resource at their command to study every phenomenon it presents, and they are eager to enjoy the opportunity," he said.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Turkey Goes Modern by Restoring Istanbul

IN RECENT years Turkey has stressed modernization. New alphabet, feminist progress, the latest in governments.

Now there is activity of another sort. Istanbul, one of the truly glamorous cities of the Old World, is being remade. But there is no cause for shuddering. This is no dream of a super-city of futuristic angles to overshadow old Istanbul. Just the opposite.

Istanbul is to reappear as it was before the Turkish invasion in 1453, Mustapha Kemal Pasha, president of the Republic of Turkey, has decided. Plans are under way.

Like President Roosevelt, Kemal Pasha calls in professors when he wants certain types of advice. To show what the city called Constantinople was like in the Middle Ages, a professor of the history of architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts has prepared maps based on old charts and records of different periods before the Turkish invasion.

With certain modern buildings torn down and historic structures restored, Istanbul will have back many long-lost vistas and skylines. The famous Mosque of Saint Sophia is undergoing extensive repairs. Gardens of Byzantine emperors are to bloom again. Parks, palaces, and religious structures are being restored.

In recent years, Rome has been busy resurrecting ancient grandeurs. The United States has its small but lovely restoration of a colonial town at Williamsburg. After all, by restoring the medieval Constantinople, Turkey is showing in one more way her determination to keep up with the times.

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ZOOLOGY

Big Lizards Apparently Able to Die Voluntarily

DEATH seems to be preferred to captivity, by a species of iguana, big, formidable-looking but really harmless tropical lizards, collected in the West Indies by Dr. Paul Bartsch of the U. S. National Museum. The strange thing about their voluntary demise, however, is that they apparently can die by just wishing to be dead. They seem to be the only animals thus able to stop living by a mere act of will.

Dr. Bartsch states that lizards of this species, captured alive and uninjured, would frequently be found dead after a few minutes, with no sign about them of how they had taken themselves off.

Among the specimens collected by Dr. Bartsch, Dr. Doris M. Cochran, Smithsonian Institution herpetologist, discovered eight species of reptiles hitherto unknown to science.

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INVENTION

Inventor's Institute Lists 895 Needed Inventions

WITH every person a potential inventor and many taking the matter seriously, the Institute of Patentees compiled a list of 895 needed inventions in connection with its recent Tenth International Exhibition of Inventions.

Someone ought to invent, for example:

1. An instrument for showing the pressure in automobile tires at sight without having to remove a valve cap.

2. A cheap photo-electric cell to fit inside the bulb of an automobile headlight so that the light would be dimmed at the approach of another car.

3. A captive golf ball for use in winter to indicate where it would have landed if played in the ordinary way.

4. A non-skid road.

5. Some form of table napkin with strings that will not slip off the knees.

6. A cheap automatic device to awaken the deaf.

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CE FIELDS

SEISMOLOGY

Earthquake Shakes Bering Sea Bottom

THE sea bottom at the edge of the Bering Sea, just north of the Aleutian Islands, was shaken by a moderately strong earthquake that began at 6:02.4 p. m., eastern standard time, on Monday, Nov. 5. Scientists of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C., evaluating wire and radio dispatches sent to Science Service by a number of seismological observatories, gave the location of the epicenter as in 52 degrees north latitude, 176 degrees west longitude.

The stations reporting were those of the Manila Observatory, Manila, P. I.; the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Honolulu; and the Jesuit Seismological Association observatories at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., Canisius College, Buffalo, N. Y., and St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.

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PSYCHIATRY

Stuttering Cured By Hypnotism

HYPNOTISM has been successfully used by U. S. Public Health Service doctors at the Marine Hospital, San Francisco, in curing patients of stuttering. Dr. Victor H. Vogel, U. S. Public Health Service, reports.

The method includes revelation and aeration of the cause and suggestion to the patient under induced hypnosis. It is especially applicable when the cause is of psychogenic origin, that is, psychic injury, such as severe abuse or fright occurring early in life, when the mind is most impressionable.

In some of the cases the causative incident remains only in the patient's subconscious mind and can not be recalled during the normal waking state; but when hypnotized, the patient readily relates all details. The suggestion is then given to the patient while in the state of hypnosis that, knowing the cause of his stuttering, he can overcome it.

Success is not so marked when the cause is not revealed.

One patient, who could not recall the causative incident before being hypnotized, readily related it under hypnosis and recalled it to mind after being awakened. In this case the patient when about 7 years of age had been severely whipped by a drunken father and locked up in a small room all night for having bought candy with a nickel that he had earned running an errand. While under hypnosis he spoke without stuttering. He was cured by three treatments. Two months later he wrote that "new worlds are open to me now." A year later he wrote that he was "selling insurance, which calls for enough talking." In normal conversations his speech was perfect, he said, while he slightly lost control and stammered "a bit" in times of excitement.

While the terms "stuttering" and "stammering" are generally considered to be synonymous, in a limited sense stuttering has been applied to a repetition of sounds or syllables, as distinguished from stammering, which is a hesitation or difficulty in voicing sounds.

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ASTRONOMY

Tiny Planet Hidalgo Being Watched By Astronomers

HIDALGO is back! Astronomers in various parts of the world are now observing the little planet which has come into view again through large telescopes after being invisible since 1925, the year following its discovery. Hidalgo is of interest because it looks like an asteroid, one of the family of tiny planets whose orbits lie mostly between those of Mars and Jupiter, but moves like a comet. It is inclined to the ecliptic, the path of the sun through the sky, by some 37 degrees, more than that of any other asteroid, an amount which is not unusual for a comet.

Hidalgo was rediscovered in August by W. R. Boyd, of the Harvard Observatory, and was recently picked up at the Simeis Observatory in Russia by Prof. G. Neujmin. It is moving through the constellation of Pisces, high in the southwestern sky in the late evenings. As it is of the twelfth magnitude, only powerful telescopes are able to reveal it. Dr. F. L. Whipple, of the Harvard Observatory, is particularly interested in it, and hopes that photographs will settle whether it is really a comet or not.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Now Possible On Aluminum Surfaces

ANEW process which makes possible durable photographs on metallic plates of aluminum and its alloys has been culminated by the firm of Siemens and Halske A.-G. in Berlin. For many years it has been known that aluminum and its alloys would attain oxide films which would absorb with avidity solutions of pigments and thus attain brilliant color effects.

The new method takes advantage of the porosity of such oxide films by having them absorb light-sensitive substances instead of pigments. The aluminum sheets are dipped successively in solutions of aluminum chloride and silver nitrate and dried after each immersion. Other silver salts, iron salts and diazo bodies can also be used to make the metal plate light sensitive.

Finished photographs made on metallic films are characterized by great durability because the film of oxide protects the underlying aluminum from chemical and mechanical influences. Such photographs, therefore, will resist the effects of light, water and weather.

Even if the aluminum is placed in a fire so hot that it is melted the picture or text on the oxide part of the plate will still be clearly visible. In contrast also to ordinary pictures the metallic photographs are resistant to organic solvents such as benzole, benzine, ether, alcohol, and acetone.

The commercial uses of the process are highly important. Maps, texts, scales on measuring instruments, dials of all kinds, are but a few.

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METEOROLOGY

Only Two Hurricanes During 1934 Season

ADD 1934 crop failures: West Indian hurricanes. Only two storms of hurricane proportions came twisting and roaring out of tropical American waters during the entire season, U. S. Weather Bureau records show.

The paucity of hurricanes this year is all the more striking when contrasted with the all-time high record for 1933, when no less than 21 of these meteorological monsters developed, some of them causing heavy property damage and loss of life.

Science News Letter, November 17, 1934