

HOW TO WILL YOUR EARS TO SCIENCE

Have this permit made out in triplicate and signed by each individual referred to in the body of the permit:

"We, the undersigned, sisters and brothers, (or, husband, sons, or daughters) of HERE GIVE FULL NAME OF PERSON CONCERNED, the only living members of his

immediate family, understand that he wishes to promote the prevention and treatment of deafness by permitting the scientific study of his auditory mechanism. For this reason and to this end we hereby give our consent to the removal, at the earliest possible moment after his death, of the bones of his inner ears."

PHYSIOLOGY

Deafened Plan A Way To Will Their Ears To Science

A PLAN whereby deafened persons can will their ears to science was announced at Cincinnati by Dr. George E. Shambaugh, Jr., of Chicago, and Mrs. Katherine K. Madden of Washington, D. C., and was hailed as a solution of tremendous difficulties in the study of deafness.

Medical specialists, and many deafened persons themselves, listening with aid of hearing devices, heard Dr. Shambaugh describe the plan at the scientific session of the meeting of the American Federation of Organizations for the Hard of Hearing.

"The almost insurmountable difficulties in the way of obtaining pathological examination of the ears of hard of hearing persons," declared Dr. Shambaugh, "have been responsible, more than any other single cause, for our continued ignorance and helplessness against many cases of deafness."

Legal red tape has made it troublesome for deafened persons to come to the aid of science in this matter. Mrs. Madden reported a simple legal form which has been worked out, and which is intended to be signed in triplicate copies

and deposited with the will of the individual, with the undertaking firm, and with the local committee or other organization set up by the local League for the Hard of Hearing. A local pathologist who will make necessary contacts for the autopsy should also be consulted, Mrs. Madden advised. The process is not disfiguring.

Nerve deafness and otosclerosis were cited by Dr. Shambaugh as conditions now imperfectly understood, mainly for want of information as to the diseased organs themselves.

"In our leading hospitals nowadays," he said, "the families or well over fifty per cent. of those who die consent to post-mortem examinations. Medical science, as a result, is liberally supplied with pathological material from most of the serious and fatal diseases and medical knowledge of most of those diseases is far ahead of our knowledge of deafness. For people do not die of deafness. And when they do die of some serious condition which brought them to a hospital, their deafness is lost sight of in the immediate emergency and the ears are never examined."

Science News Letter, June 15, 1935

● RADIO

Tuesday, June 18, 3:30 p. m., E.S.T.
EARTH'S TREASURE HOUSES OF THE METALS, by Dr. Edson S. Bastin, Professor of Geology, University of Chicago, and Chairman of the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council.

Tuesday, June 25, 3:30 p. m., E.S.T.
POISON IVY, By Dr. James F. Couch, Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

In the Science Service series of radio addresses given by eminent scientists over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

ETHNOLOGY

Head Hunters In Borneo Now Disappearing Race

ONE of the famous former head-hunting races of North Borneo is being exterminated by malaria. This is suggested by Dr. A. J. Copeland, late Government District Surgeon in British North Borneo. (*Lancet*, May 25)

The endangered people are known as the Muruts. The other principal head-hunting race of North Borneo—the Du-

suns—does not seem to suffer from an increase of malaria; their population is, indeed, on the increase. The Dusuns are agricultural people, growing rice on the higher, open lands. Muruts inhabit the jungles at lower levels and live mainly by hunting.

The Murut population is reported to have been falling steadily for the past eight years.

In Dr. Copeland's opinion the Muruts' remarkable change from a flourishing race to a disappearing one, is due primarily to ravages of malaria and only secondarily to the wide variety of fatal diseases which finish the process malaria has begun.

He believes that increase of the malaria is due to two new causes, acting on one old one.

The new factors are firstly the arrival, starting about 1925, of Javanese laborers, 65 per cent. of whom are infected with a serious type of malaria, and secondly the indiscriminate clearing of the jungle. The old factor is the habit of the Muruts—but not of the Dusuns—of living in communal "long-houses," each of which accommodates an entire village and is supported on wooden posts that afford most desirable resting-places for anopheles mosquitoes.

These races have always been subject to malaria. But to the strain of the disease normally endemic in their region they have acquired a considerable degree of immunity. This does not protect them from the strains imported by Javanese laborers.

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TECHNOLOGY

Wood Waxed to Center By Forest Service Process

WAXING wood to its very center instead of merely on the surface is accomplished by a new process worked out at the U. S. Forest Service laboratories, Madison, Wis., by Dr. A. J. Stamm.

The wood is "embalmed," as Dr. Stamm terms it, by first giving the wood a preliminary chemical treatment that makes it permeable to the melted wax. Beeswax and stearin are among the waxes thus far successfully used. It is stated that rosin, linseed oil and other substances that will mix with wax can also be employed.

Wood thus processed is waterproof and resists warping, shrinking, checking and cracking. Permanently waxed floors and furniture are among the promising possibilities suggested.

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