York City's Empire State Building, and several blocks of its surrounding buildings.

Subjected to regulated and artificial breezes in a ten-foot wind tunnel, this miniature Manhattan gives information that will allow engineers to design buildings that are safe in high windstorms with due regard to least possible cost.

The 1,248-foot world's tallest structure is reduced in the model to a 5-foot height. Frequent visitors to New York will be able to pick out familiar landmarks in the model, which is viewed toward the east in the accompanying illustration.

Wind pressure is one of the important factors in designing tall buildings, radio masts, water towers and chimneys. Bureau of Standards experts hope that measurements upon the Empire State Building in natural winds will be made so that they can be compared with the model's wind tunnel results.

Science News Letter, June 29, 1935

MEDICINE

Supposed "Thymus Deaths" May be Due to Allergy

SUDDEN and mysterious deaths of small children, heretofore blamed on the thymus gland in the chest, may instead be due to extreme sensitiveness to an irritant of the sort that causes hay fever and asthma in adults, Dr. George L. Waldbott, of Detroit, told members of the American and Canadian Medical Associations at their recent meeting.

Dr. Waldbott based his opinion on changes found in the thymus glands and other organs after the deaths of children who died a so-called thymic death. These changes were strikingly similar to those found in infants that had suffered from asthma known to be due to supersensitiveness.

Enlargement of the thymus gland cannot be considered a result of the supersensitiveness, or allergy as it is termed medically. Persons with hay fever and allergy, Dr. Waldbott pointed out, do not as a rule have enlarged thymus glands, nor do children with the enlarged gland show symptoms of supersensitiveness. He therefore suggested that the enlarged gland may be a "pre-allergic" phenomenon.

During this "pre-allergic" state the body apparently has not a sufficient defensive force for fighting an invasion of irritating foreign substances, Dr. Waldbott suggested in explanation.

No effective treatment is known for the condition, but preventive measures offer some hope of warding off these deaths, Dr. Waldbott said. If they are really due to allergy, then any child whose parents have such an allergic condition may be expected to develop it, because such supersensitiveness seems to be hereditary.

Such children should be guarded against exposure to all the things that can cause hay fever or other allergic attacks, Dr. Walbott advised. These include weeds, face powder, chilling, over-heating, and taking of foods or drugs to which they may be sensitive.

Science News Letter, June 29, 1935

Sigillography is the science of deciphering and interpreting seals.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Ditch In Guatemala Reveals Ancient Well

DISCOVERY of an orange-red pottery well, from which thirsty Maya Indians drew water centuries ago, is announced by Oliver G. Ricketson, Jr., of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. (*Maya Research,* April).

The ancient well, which shows how ingenious Mayas stored water, was unearthed at Quirigua, Guatemala, where one of the Mayan cities was located. It consisted of a pipe of pottery which led down to a big pottery water jar. The jar was buried in stones and sand and served as a cistern. Holes in the jar below the water table permitted free entrance of water.

In the bottom of the jar the archaeologist found a used mano, or grinding stone, which suggests that some Indian woman lost it down the well.

The well was discovered when Mr. Ricketson was informed by Floyd Avary that several large pottery tubes had come to light during ditch digging on Quirigua Farm.

Science News Letter, June 29, 1935

A CROWN AND A CORNERSTONE

Phoenixes and jeweled flowers tremble lightly on this gorgeous crown, believed to have been worn by a Chinese empress almost a thousand years ago. The imperial crown has come to New York, to the Metropolitan Musum of Art, where Alan Priest enthusiastically predicts that "it is, I think, bound to become the cornerstone and foundation of the study of Chinese jewelry, for today it has no known rival." Aside from Korean crowns, it is believed the only complete early crown to have come out of China. Five phoenixes, each dangling a pearl tassel from its beak, are ranged in front. Above is an airy mass of flowers with centers of pearl, uncut ruby, or cat's-eye among which fly birds and butterflies.