

MEDICINE

Play Part of Treatment At Children's Hospital

GROUP play is an important part of the nursing and treatment of the small patients at Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Anne Smith, director of play at the institution, told members of the American Hospital Association.

The play is not just "something tacked on after the physical care has been attended to," Miss Smith said in describing this work at the hospital, where over four thousand patients under twelve years of age are cared for annually.

The play has become an integral part of the nursing service and has proved an effective aid in hastening the recovery of the children and preventing the beginning of neurotic tendencies so apt to start in prolonged illnesses of children.

Frightened, homesick children crying themselves into a fever are unknown at Children's Memorial Hospital, it appears from Miss Smith's description of conditions there. Nurses find that their small charges quickly stop crying and resisting the various necessary treatments and care when stories are told or guessing games played while the unfamiliar and therefore frightening procedures are being carried out.

All patients scheduled for operations are gathered in a sun room at eight in the morning and play together in groups under supervision while awaiting their turn to have their tonsils removed or other operation performed. Because play is a familiar and important part of normal child life, this makes them feel at home in the hospital and they are content and calm until the last minute before the operation.

"The whole atmosphere of a hospital is changed," Miss Smith said. "One

visiting doctor from the East seeing all the alert happy faces in our hospital claimed we had no sick children. We know that a hospital full of wan-faced irritable children is unnecessary and should cease to exist."

ANTHROPOLOGY

Thames Valley Yields Remains Of New Type Ancient Briton

FROM the Thames Valley, where he has lain buried perhaps a hundred thousand years, a new type of Stone Age Briton has come to light. Part of his skull and his weapon—a stone axe-head—have so far been unearthed.

Discovered by Alvan T. Marston, London dentist and archaeologist, the remains are arousing keen interest among scientists who have made preliminary examination of the skull fragment. The occipital bone—from the back of the head—is the part of the skull found.

The ancient Briton belonged to the Acheulian culture of the Old Stone Age, and is therefore older than any human found in Britain with the single exception of Piltdown Man—England's "Dawn Man." This is the tentative belief expressed by Sir Arthur Keith, noted British anthropologist, and his colleague Theodore McCown, American archaeologist in London.

"Important and very interesting" is their verdict. But until anatomical measurements can be completed, they say, the implications of the discovery will not be fully learned.

Agreeing in the importance of the discovery, Sir Arthur Smith Woodward, authority on ancient man, sees a resemblance in the Thames Valley man's skull to that of modern man. It is unlike that of Piltdown Man and also unlike the

The play is under the direction of nurses and volunteer play workers, all of whom are first given instruction in how to use play to the best advantage and under different conditions.

Science News Letter, October 12, 1935

skulls of the Neandertal race that lived some 75,000 years ago.

The gravel pit that yielded the remains, between Greenhithe and Gravesend, has been examined by Henry Dewey of the Geological Survey, to determine its geological antiquity.

Science News Letter, October 12, 1935

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER published weekly at Baltimore, Md., for Oct. 1, 1935
Washington } ss.
District of Columbia }

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia aforesaid, personally appeared Howard Bandy, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Editor, Watson Davis, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.
Business Manager, Howard Bandy, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.

2. That the owner is:
Science Service, Inc., 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C., a non-profit corporation without stock, operating as the Institution for the Popularization of Science.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

Howard Bandy,
Business Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of Oct., 1935.

[SEAL]

Charles L. Wade
(My commission expires March 26, 1938.)

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER COUPON

To Science News Letter, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Please start renew my subscription to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for 2 years, \$7 1 year, \$5
 Enclosed find check Please send bill

Name.....

Street Address.....

City and State.....

Extra postage charges: 50c a year in Canada; 75c a year in foreign countries.