

other trees and helps itself to aid from their roots.

On the ridge that overlooks Honolulu, where 1500 young trees are growing vigorously, they stand among lantana bushes, members of the verbena family.

Sandalwood trees grow rather rapidly. They are of some value at the age of

25 years. It is the heart of the tree, however, that is most precious, and heartwood is not likely to develop greatly until the tree is 40 or 50 years old. Since the present plantings are chiefly in territorial forests, however, the profits do not need to be immediate to make the enterprise sound.

*Science News Letter, November 9, 1935*

The second is a handle that lies either close against or is countersunk within the side of the door.

*Science News Letter, November 9, 1935*

#### SURGERY

### High Blood Pressure Relieved by Surgery

**N**EW HOPE for successful surgical operation in combatting the menacing disease of middle age—high blood pressure—has been reported to the meeting of the American College of Surgeons.

Surgical aid for relieving the ailment which brings to a halt many ambitious careers before the prime of life is over will not work for all types of high blood pressure, said Dr. Alfred W. Adson of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, who described the new operative technic.

Over a period of five years, he added, however, the form of high blood pressure known as essential hypertension has been treated by operations in thirty-five cases. Tried for these 35 people, the operation was in some cases a successful measure taken only after all routine medical practices were applied and found wanting.

The operative technic, still not wholly perfect, consists of cutting nerves which control the contraction and dilation of blood vessels in whole areas of the body.

*Science News Letter, November 9, 1935*

#### ENGINEERING

## Doctor Says Door Handles on Streamlined Autos are Menace

**W**HEN medieval warriors drove their chariots into battle, they mounted sharp-pointed knives in the wheel hubs to sideswipe the enemy if they couldn't run him down.

When modern men ride forth for a peaceful Sunday drive, they unknowingly carry similar deadly weapons mounted in the doors of their streamlined motor cars. Dr. Samuel McLanahan of Baltimore, calls attention to this (*Journal, American Medical Association, Sept. 28.*)

The automobile door handle is a "menacing and dangerous projection," the cause of disfiguring injuries and occasional deaths, Dr. McLanahan charges. He describes six striking cases of accident resulting from persons being struck by the door handles of motor cars and mentions six other recent accidents of a similar nature, two of which were fatal puncture wounds of the skull.

#### Cases Cited

One case described in his report was that of a motorcyclist who collided with an automobile. The car door handle was driven through his skull. The handle of a taxicab tore a deep gash in the chest of a little girl running in the street. A Negro crossing the highway had a long gash torn in his abdomen when struck by a passing car.

A young man of 22 has lost all sensation in his right arm and use of that member since an automobile struck him and the door handle tore a hole in his forearm. While crossing a bridge recently, a boy of 16 was sideswiped and his right hand permanently disfigured by the door handle.

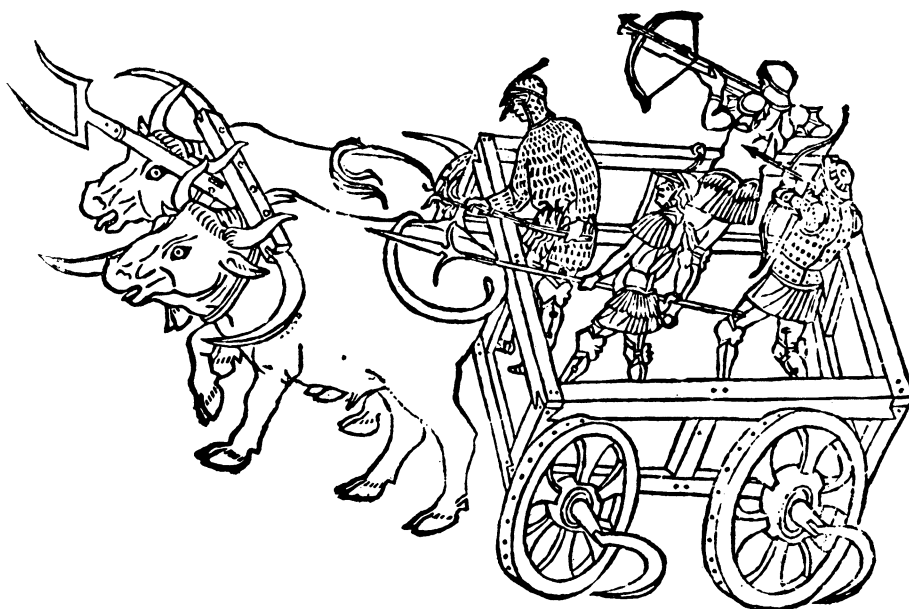
"A casual glance at a row of passing cars cannot but convince one of the potential danger of this projecting piece of metal," Dr. McLanahan declares. "In the recent streamlined models it to be seen many a door handle that is little

short of a spear—truly a vicious weapon—directed toward any victim who may chance to be in its path. The possibilities of mutilation are easily imagined."

Cars with handles that are directed toward the rear, because the hinges of the door lie in that direction, are less menacing, the doctor states, although they are still dangerous projections.

Improvements must finally come from automobile engineers, the physician declares. He has approached one large manufacturing company and earnest consideration of the question has been promised.

Dr. McLanahan suggests two requisites for safety. The first is a handle (if there must be a handle) without sharp projections, as instanced in the oval ones on certain obsolete models.



#### DEADLY

*This war chariot of days gone by bears little resemblance to modern motor cars, yet both provide similar hazards to the pedestrian.*