

SURGERY

Blood Transfusion Called Best Pre-Operation Tonic

HUMAN blood, accurately typed and carefully injected into the veins by competent surgeons, is the best possible tonic for a number of conditions, Dr. John J. Shea of Memphis told the meeting.

Among the conditions for which he advised it are: before operation on weakened patients; loss of blood by accident or by slow seeping away; destruction of blood by infection, as mastoid disease; and diseases of the blood itself such as hemophilia, the hereditary bleeders' disease, and purpura hemorrhagica.

Blood transfusion is also valuable, he said, for giving a temporary supply of missing white blood cells in agranulocytic angina.

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MEDICINE

Electrochemical Treatment Criticized by Physician

ELECTRICITY and chemicals may dry up the running noses and stop the sneezes of hayfever and give the patient relief but such treatment is fraught with danger, Dr. Lee W. Dean of St. Louis warned.

Dangerous dryness and scarring is the payment for such treatment, Dr. Dean said, and the relief obtained is not lasting. The electrochemical treatments accomplish their results by destroying the mucous lining of the nose and the nerves which cause sneezing and swelling when irritated by pollens. The next year after

treatment, however, the symptoms may return after the nerves have grown back.

Dr. Dean advises careful search for the causes of nose sensitiveness and removal of as many of them as possible, before resorting to electrical, chemical or serum treatment.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Find Indian Town's Graveyard In National Capital Suburb

A STEAMSHOVEL burrowing up earth at an Army flying field in suburban Washington has struck the lost graveyard of the old Indian town of Nacotchtank.

This is the belief of archaeologists at the Smithsonian Institution, who are now studying the bundles of bones found arranged in an old Indian fashion. The custom, common among southern Algonquian Indians, was to collect a bundle of skulls, another bundle of leg bones, and so on, and to pile sorted types into graves. Several barrels full of the bones have so far been recovered.

The discovery adds to knowledge of an historic Indian town picturesquely described by Captain John Smith. An

artist who accompanied Smith drew pictures of typical towns in the region, thus recording the early appearance of what was destined to be the capital of the United States.

Several Indian villages stood within the District of Columbia area, but Nacotchtank was the greatest. It has been described as an important trading town, and a sort of fashion center. The town's place in Indian fashion trade is inferred from the fact that chief exports were powdered graphite and ocher, which served as face and body paints to adorn Indians of Maryland and Virginia.

The suburb Anacostia, which stands today on this Indian ground, bears the old Indian name Nacotchtank, in a Latinized form.

This corner of the District of Columbia as it appeared to Captain John Smith in 1608 consisted of houses of bent poles covered with mats, rather like hayricks in general shape. The houses were arranged with some regularity and surrounded by cornfields. The Indian men wore robes, the women wore short skirts, and the children very little of anything. The Potomac River was a busy thoroughfare of Indian canoes bent on trading ventures, and out from the villages at Washington radiated land trails to the Susquehanna River and on westward.

Within 75 years after Smith's visit there was not an Indian left in the Potomac Valley.

While Washington residents have made frequent discoveries of Indian implements and small objects, from this early stage of the city's history, the knowledge of Algonquian tribes along the Atlantic coast is considered meager. Finding a graveyard of early inhabitants of the National Capital is giving scientists a new opportunity to study these Indian types.

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A BIG ONE

*Izaak Walton of the Devonian epoch of 300,000,000 years ago may have had some real fishing near what is now Cleveland, Ohio. Shown above is the immense head of the *Dinichthys terrelli* which is 55 inches long, 40 inches high and 36½ inches wide. Total length of the fish is estimated at 30 feet. The front part of the skull is hinged to the shoulder girdle so that the fish could operate his face like a marine steam shovel. Above is Peter A. Bungart of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History who collected the skull 13 miles from Cleveland and mounted it for exhibition.*