

MEDICINE

Blackheads and Pimples Infections Not Due to Diet

DISFIGURING blackheads and pimples are not caused by faulty diet. They are due to a local infection of germs ordinarily found on the skin.

This most common of all skin diseases, acne vulgaris, is attributed by Dr. Lloyd W. Ketron of Johns Hopkins Medical School to micro-organisms growing in the openings of the glands of the skin. The resulting comedones or blackheads usually completely block the flow of the fat glands. If the wall of the gland is then eroded, Dr. Ketron explained in a report to the Southern Medical Association, the organisms are liberated into the tissues along with other foreign material composing the blackhead. There results a pimple, termed by physicians "a superficial nodule or pustule."

If a section of a fresh acne nodule or pimple is stained and inspected with the aid of a microscope, the white blood cells are seen to be filled with the acne bacilli and another organism, the staphylococcus, which is the cause of boils. Acne cannot be produced experimentally, Dr. Ketron found, but injecting these organisms, either alive or dead, into the skin will cause inflamed nodules or abscesses in both man and animals.

There is not much evidence to support the theory that diet is the cause of acne, Dr. Ketron said, but he quoted two other scientists who found that acne improved when they gave the patient injections of sugar solution and a diet high in sugars and starches.

Science News Letter, December 5, 1936

A Mathematics Museum has been established at Teachers College, in New York.



COMPLETE FLOOR

Excavators were lucky in finding this complete floor of a small room at Daphne, Antioch's famous suburb. The animals and birds that decorate the mosaic show plainly.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Valuable Mosaics Found At Antioch-on-the-Orontes

TWO HUNDRED and sixty mosaics, which throw long-sought light on the early medieval art of the Near East, have been excavated at Antioch-on-the-Orontes, Prof. C. Rufus Morey of Princeton University, chairman of the International Committee in charge of the excavations, said.

Another unusual find is an imperial head in porphyry, a material in which only royal likenesses were done. There

is also a series of busts of the late third and early fourth centuries A.D., a period which did not produce much sculpture; a head of a divinity, probably Dionysos, carved in black granite; some excellent Greco-Roman sculpture from the theater at Daphne and a full-size statue of Hygeia.

The mosaics, one of which was used as a gaming board, depict a wide variety of designs and scenes, including the seasons, animals and birds, human beings and street scenes.

Raising the mosaics without damaging them was a difficult task for the excavators. The pictures had first to be covered with cloth to keep the cubes in place, then chipped loose from their settings and overturned. The plaster bed was then cut away from the backs of the cubes and replaced with reinforced concrete. The largest mosaic pavement which has been uncovered is 21 feet square.

Another Christian church was found this year but has not yet been identified, Prof. Morey said. Last year the expedition uncovered a church, dated 384 A.D., built with an open square from

This Handy Coupon

IS FOR NEW OR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

Name

Street Address

City and State

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