

### Pictures of Ancient China

Knowledge of ancient China, previously confined almost entirely to what has been learned from literature, has been greatly expanded by tile pictures in the tombs of China in early days, Prof. William Charles White, formerly Bishop of Honan, and now of the University of Toronto, revealed.

Dating back 22 centuries, the tile pictures, well-protected through the ages against vandalism, present a new and fresh picture of the costumes, weapons, and pursuits of the time. A large collection of the tiles, which are from five to six feet long, two feet or less in width and six inches thick, is now housed in the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology.

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#### PUBLIC HEALTH

### New Attack on Cancer To Seek Early Treatment

**A** NEW attack on cancer, aimed at prevention and early treatment, was explained by Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, executive director of the National Advisory Cancer Council.

Where in the past states have tried to open new institutes for the seriously ill cancer patients, now it is being advocated that the main attack be turned on state-wide prevention and early treatment of this disease in its controllable stages.

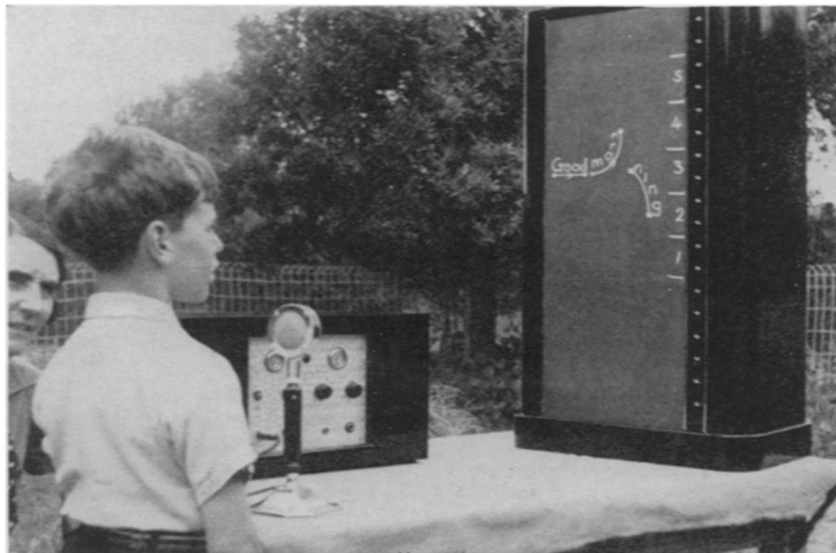
Dr. Hektoen, who addressed the annual conference of health officers and public health nurses of New York State, pointed out that this state-wide, local method of fighting cancer is recommended by the State Cancer Commission which New York's legislature appointed to study the problem.

Dr. Hektoen emphasized that the control of cancer is a public health problem affecting an entire state. Since the majority of people in a state are unable to get early diagnosis and proper treatment if they develop this disease, it is becoming recognized that state health agencies have the duty of helping forestall this serious and dangerous malady.

Prevention of cancer includes teaching the public to avoid occupational hazards and personal habits, such as rubbing the tongue against a rough tooth, which may lead to a persistent and possibly cancerous sore.

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The most brightly colored of all large birds is the flamingo.



#### TALKING IN COLORS

*The vertical row of colored lights, which flash to show this deaf child whether his voice is pitched naturally or not, is controlled by tuning forks operated electromagnetically. The youngster talks into a microphone, tries to imitate the rise and fall of voice indicated by his teacher on the blackboard before him.*

#### PSYCHOLOGY

## Ways of Helping Deaf Child Discussed at Conference

### Mechanical Device Enables Deaf To Avoid Monotone; Efforts At Salvaging Residual Hearing Successful

**N**EWEST ways of helping deaf children get along in the world were given serious consideration at the meeting in Detroit of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf.

Educators give the cheering news that it is far less tragic for a child to have defective hearing now than a generation or two ago. So much more can be done.

Statistics show 1,600,000 children in the United States, or six out of 100 of school age, have defective hearing. Of these, 300,000 are seriously enough affected to need eyesight help by reading a speaker's lips.

Under discussion was an invention from South Africa, which an engineer has devised to teach deaf children to talk naturally, instead of in a dull monotone. The invention, used successfully in South African schools for the deaf, looks like a box. At one side is a vertical string of fourteen light bulbs, gay colors. On the front of the box is a green black-

board. The teacher writes "Good morning" on the board, and draws a curve to show how the voice should rise and fall. The deaf child says, "Good morning," and the colored lights flash to show the pitch of his voice. Electromagnetically operated tuning forks operate the device. The top four and bottom two lights are red, meaning danger—voice too high and shrill or too low and gruff.

Inventor of the device is A. E. Coyne, instructor in engineering at Cape Technical College. The invention is mainly for the totally deaf child, who has no way of hearing his own speech defects.

Helping the deaf child to "hear" by feeling the vibrating bones of a speaker's head is another recent development discussed and demonstrated. At the Detroit Day School for the Deaf, where this vibration method has gained fame, all incoming classes are taught to feel speech. Children who have little or no hearing, cannot get help from mechani-

cal devices. They can, however, learn to "hear" what a speaker says by casually placing a hand almost anywhere against the speaker's cheek or on his head.

Strenuous efforts of educators to salvage what precious hearing the hard-of-hearing child may have was another topic of the conference. It is now realized that many a child who seems totally deaf, actually has a good deal of hearing which, if not neglected, can be trained and improved.

Educators tell of one child who was in a school three months before any one realized she could hear anything. She was considered a deaf mute. She knew written language and read lip motions of speakers. But speech was as foreign to her as Turkish might sound to the average American. Then, in less than four months this supposedly deaf child was taught to hear and understand 300 words.

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#### BIOLOGY—PHYSIOLOGY

## Eugenics Program Declared Impracticable at Present

### Dr. Lillie Urges Institutes for Further Study Of Human Genetics; Vitamin E Cures Sterility

**E**UGENICS is not a practicable program at present, both because we do not yet know enough about human heredity and because human social organizations are not adapted for the carrying out of such a program.

So declared Dr. Frank R. Lillie, president of the National Academy of Sciences, before the Ottawa meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"Biological opinion is divided," Dr. Lillie said, "because our knowledge of human heredity is quite rudimentary as compared, for instance, with our knowledge of heredity in fruit flies or guinea pigs. Even if we felt sure that our knowledge of the principles of heredity in lower animals is theoretically fully applicable to mankind, we would not know how to apply it eugenically except in most general terms, for there are no pure lines in human inheritance for one thing, and for another, we have no animal analogies to the human qualities of character that we most need in the social process.

"Biological opinion is divided even on the subject of negative eugenics, the elimination of the unfit, not so much on the general desirability of the principle as on the definition of unfitness, the determination of standards and the methods to be employed," Dr. Lillie continued. "Sociological and political opinion is also divided sharply, on the question of the trends of existing social, economic and political selective processes

as they affect population, and the desirability of applying such a sharp instrument as radical eugenics to society before the possibilities of social amelioration in other ways are more fully explored. Under these conditions we should have institutes specially devoted to human genetics for the sake of the medical as well as of the social problems involved.

"One sometimes feels tempted to despair of the social coordination of scientific knowledge for the increase of the well being and happiness of mankind. But faith in the progressive evolution of mankind is stronger, in the scientific world at least.

"I have the conviction that the ethical principles of Christianity are widespread among the masses of mankind, and that they will prevail. But the processes of evolution are slow, and we may have to wait a long time."

#### New Hormone Substance.

A new hormone substance of the pituitary gland, often called "the gland in the driver's seat," was presented to the scientific world by Drs. A. H. Neufeld and J. B. Collip of McGill University's Department of Biochemistry, Montreal.

It has "ketogenic and anti-insulin properties" which means that it forms ketone in the body and that it opposes the action of insulin so useful in treating diabetes. Dr. Collip was one of the Canadian team of research workers who developed insulin.

The new substance or substances have their origin in the "pars intermedia" or the portion of the gland between the anterior and posterior parts, Drs. Neufeld and Collip suggest. Thus there are added to the previously known products of this tiny gland of the head a new material from its middle portions with new and perhaps important functions in the body's health and illness.

The Montreal scientists would not speculate on the physiological significance of their findings although they said they were tempted to do so. They feel that it is judicious to await further developments before doing this.

The known effects of anterior lobe extracts upon growth, the thyroid glands, the male sex glands and the adrenals were differentiated from the newly discovered fraction.

#### Cures Sterility

Vitamin E seems to be a factor in allowing some women to bear children who otherwise can not become mothers, data presented by Dr. E. M. Watson of the University of Western Ontario Medical School indicated.

Reviewing research on the anti-sterility vitamin, he told how clinical use of wheat germ oil prevented in many cases habitual abortion in women. Experiments suggest also that it activates the anterior lobe of the important pituitary gland. He warned that one portion of ether-extracted wheat germ oil may produce cancer.

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#### MEDICINE

### Seek to Prevent Deaths From Epidemic Diarrhea

**M**EASURES to prevent death of new-born infants in hospitals, from epidemic diarrhea and other infections, were described by Dr. Samuel Frant of New York City's Department of Health, speaking at the annual conference of health officers and public health nurses of the state. Dr. Frant said that epidemic diarrhea of the new-born is a highly communicable infectious disease, the cause of which is still unknown.

In 27 outbreaks of this epidemic disease in three and one-half years, he found that out of 5,082 infants exposed to the disease, 750 took it and 356 died.

Dr. Frant said that New York City has adopted a series of measures to save its babies from this hazard:

1. Hospitals are required to report any case of diarrhea in an infant less