

brilliantly interpreted these minute subdivisions of the plants he studied as the ultimate organized living units. He described with considerable accuracy the course of cell division, and regarded it, correctly, as the essential basis of multiplication and growth.

General application of Schleiden's theory to both plants and animals was made by another German, the zoologist Theodor Schwann, much of whose career was spent in the Belgian universities of Louvain and Liège. He found nucleated cells in the tissues of some of his animals, especially in embryonic tissues, and established the general applicability of the cell theory to all growth and development.

Erik Nordenskiöld declares, in his *History of Biology*: "It is thanks to this theory that the present age has been able to work out its conception of life-phenomena as a connected whole; without Schwann, Darwinism would hardly have been victorious."

Science News Letter, November 26, 1938

DENTISTRY

Caries Cure May be Found In Mouths Free From Decay

LIVES there the man or woman who has no decayed teeth and never has had any? If so, he or she should come forward and volunteer for tests which may lead to the finding of a cure or preventive of that wide-spread ailment, dental caries.

This idea was put forward by Dr. John A. Marshall of the University of California College of Dentistry at the meeting of the Southern California Dental Association.

Persons immune to caries, Dr. Marshall said, have something the rest of us lack. Study of such persons might lead to more rapid progress in the search for causes, cure and prevention of tooth decay.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1938

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Antivivisection Defeat Will Encourage Scientific Work

California passed its intelligence test on health and medicine by defeating by 60,000 votes the so-called humane pound referendum proposition No. 2, one of the 25 proposed laws put before the people on Election Day. This was the bill which threatened to throttle the efforts of Cali-

formia scientists to find ways of preventing or curing such ailments as cancer, infantile paralysis, high blood pressure, leukemia and heart disease. It was attacked by leading scientists as a disguised anti-vivisection measure. (See SNL, Nov. 5.)

By ELLIOTT C. CUTLER, M. D.

Moseley Professor of Surgery Harvard Medical School; Chairman, A. M. A. Committee for Protection of Medical Research.

THE defeat of the so-called humane pound initiative measure in California will encourage all scientific bodies, defenders of biological research, and doctors everywhere to continue their investigations for the betterment of the health of the American people.

The defeat on this bill is a clear indication that the public as a whole be-

lieves in defending the frontiers of knowledge and in training doctors in technical methods in surgery through the use of animals.

It is to be hoped that the recent defeat to the misguided sentimentalists in their attempt to embarrass and hinder medical research will lead people to appreciate that the promise of future improvements in public health matters and the discoveries which will better their welfare will largely depend upon the freedom with which scientists may conduct investigations.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1938

MEDICINE

Vienna Medical Faculty Has Lost Half Its Assistants

HALF the assistant professors and instructors on the medical faculty of the University of Vienna at the time Austria was seized by Nazi Germany have lost their positions, it is reported in a survey published by the technical journal, *Science* (Nov. 11)

With a liberal sprinkling of great names whose disappearance from what was once a medical faculty renowned for the ability of its members, the list includes a considerable number of "Aryans" as well as Jews.

Prof. Egon Ranzi, director of the university's surgical clinic, has been forced to relinquish the directorship of the clinic and has been retired on a pension because he had been a supporter of Schuschnigg, according to the journal, which quotes the Berlin correspondent of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Prof. Leopold Arzt and Wilhelm Kerl, both "Aryans" and both ranking dermatologists, have met the same fate

and for the same reasons. Prof. Ernest P. Pick, pharmacologist, was forced to retire because he is a Jew. Dr. Arnold Durig, a physiologist, has been retired for reasons unknown. Prof. Otto Lowei, of Graz, Nobel Laureate, has been stripped of his post and was in custody until a short time ago. Psychiatrist Otto Kinders has been dismissed, probably on racial grounds. Sigmund Freud is in London; Hans Hoff, in the United States. Prof. Otto Marburg, noted neurologist, and Erwin Stransky have both lost their posts.

Others who have lost positions are: G. Hitzengerger, radiologist; David Scherf, cardiologist; Julius Bauer, endocrinologist; Karl Glaessner; Otto Porges and Walter Zweig. Prof. Ismar Boas, who had made Vienna his refuge from Germany, committed suicide by taking an overdose of barbitol.

The list of those dismissed includes Moriz Oppenheim, dermatologist; Gottwald Schwarz, roentgenologist; Josef