



**AIR-CONDITIONED ARTIFICIAL FEVER**

Two of the new cabinets in operation at St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh. In foreground, fever treatment is being given to one of the patient's arms in a "local treatment" cabinet. In background, a patient is shown in the larger cabinet that treats the entire body.

MEDICINE

## Conditioned Heated Air Induces Fever That Cures

### In Year of Tests, New Treatment Benefits Patients Suffering From Wide Variety of Serious Maladies

**A**IR conditioning—the reverse of the kind that keeps you comfortable on hot summer days—has been used to induce healing fevers in a new kind of fever treatment instituted in Pittsburgh hospitals during the past year.

Instead of cooled, dried air used for summer comfort, air that is heated and moistened by water is used to induce artificial fever of 104 to 106 degrees Fahrenheit within the patient's body.

Patients suffering from a wide variety of ailments, ranging from gonorrhea and syphilis to St. Vitus' Dance and "sleeping sickness" or encephalitis, have been helped by the new kind of fever treatment, according to a report made by Drs. T. Lyle Hazlett and Murray B. Ferderber of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. These scientists are in charge of a fever treatment research program made possible by a

\$50,000 grant to the University by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company.

Fever treatment of various ailments has been widely used for some years. Sometimes the patients have been given malaria or a dose of typhoid germs to induce the beneficial high temperatures. Another method used is a fever treatment machine which passes short radio waves through the patient's body to elevate his temperature.

This is said to be the first time heated and moistened air has been used to induce fever for treatment of sickness. The machine, a long cylindrical cabinet, was designed by Dr. Ferderber and F. C. Houghton and Carl Gutberlet of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

Within the cylinder is a duct and spray system attached to the hot and cold

water supply of the hospital and regulated by thermostatically controlled mixing valves which "set" the temperature of the water. Air is sucked out of one side of the cabinet, completely saturated with the hot water and returned to the cabinet.

*Science News Letter, February 11, 1939*

ANTHROPOLOGY

## Fascism and Other Isms Ancient in Origin

**P**EOPLE who are alarmed over the trend in modern civilization can get some comfort from the ups-and-downs of ancient Greek and Roman eras.

Way back in Homer's day, poets considered man had seen better days, and was reduced to a second-rate decadence. So the American Philological Association was reminded by its president, Prof. W. A. Oldfather of the University of Illinois, in an address on ancient thought regarding man's progress and decadence.

The ultra-blue-blooded Plato in the fourth century B.C. was preoccupied with the idea of an urgent need to re-establish the shattered structure of human morality, Prof. Oldfather said. But Plato gave up hope of appealing to all mankind in democratic fashion and pinned his faith on refashioning society under despotic authority of a little group of warrior-saints, who would benevolently look out for the common folk.

Greek orator Demosthenes urged what Prof. Oldfather called "a primitive variety of foreign-policy fascism," in order to save society in the same fourth century. Phaleas urged a rigorous communism. Isocrates, "a Greek Peter the Hermit in cap and gown," preached a kind of Yellow Peril crusade against Persia.

As a Roman thinker, Horace in the first century before Christ was pretty nearly devoid of social outlook. But his concern with the individual's welfare and happiness was just what the modern world will return to, when it settles its confusing problems about economic relations, Prof. Oldfather foresees.

*Science News Letter, February 11, 1939*

## ● Earth Trembles

A severe earthquake on January 30 was given the following provisional epicenter by the Manila Observatory, Manila, P. I.:

*Monday, January 30, 12:18.6 p.m., (local time)*

Near the Solomon Islands. Latitude 7 degrees south, longitude 155 degrees east.

For stations cooperating with Science Service in reporting earthquakes recorded on their seismographs, see SNL February 4, 1939.