

tional Seashore. This first national seashore to be authorized by Congress waits on one practical detail. Land or money for buying it must be donated, so Congress decrees.

Meanwhile, CCC men work at the sand dunes and Hugh R. Awtrey of the National Park Service regional headquarters at Richmond gets ready for questions tourists will ask about Blackbeard.

The pirate's doings were leading news for months, Mr. Awtrey finds, by studying the colonial press. At last, the public enemy was wiped out by five pistol balls and 20 "dismal cuts." His head, worth 100 English pounds reward money, was hacked off and the rest of him went down into Davy Jones' locker.

But it was a leisurely press that followed news of Blackbeard, or Capt. Edward Teach. Here was a sea rover whose lurid crimes make a Dillinger seem just a village rowdy, says Mr. Awtrey. Yet the only regularly issued newspaper in America, the weekly *Boston News-Letter*, was printing rumors of Teach's capture and contradictory denials for weeks after British Lieutenant Maynard had got his man.

Three months elapsed after Teach's death before the details got into the paper. Part of one sentence shows the journalistic style:

"Demelt struck in between them with his Sword and Cut Teach's Face pretty much; in the Interim both Companies engaged in Maynard's Sloop, one of Maynard's Men being a Highlander, engaged Teach with his broad Sword, who gave Teach a cut on the Neck, Teach saying well done Lad, the Highlander reply'd, if it be not well done, I'll do it better, with that he gave him a second stroke, which cut off his Head, laying it flat on his Shoulder."

If early American news was slow, it was vivid.

Science News Letter, August 12, 1939

An athletic field in Liverpool, England, can be thawed in cold weather by means of a network of electric wires underground.

● RADIO ●

Dr. Philip Fox, director of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, will be the guest scientist on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Monday, August 21, 5:45 EDST, 4:45 EST, 3:45 CST, 2:45 MST, 1:45 PST. Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Monday.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Who Discovered Antarctic Is Still Unanswered Question

Pacific Science Congress Learns That Region Is Not All Ice; Little Evidence Supports Land Bridge Idea

WHO discovered the Antarctic continent?

In spite of centuries of exploration, extending back to the visit of Dirck Gheritz in 1599, this question remains unsettled, according to a paper presented to the Pacific Science Congress in Berkeley, Calif., by Dr. Bharne Aagaard, of Stavern, Norway. The paper gave a detailed account of the various claims, among which is included Bransfield's discovery of Trinity Land, January, 1820; Palmer's discovery of Palmer Land, November, 1820; Bellingshausen's discovery of Alexander Land, January, 1821; John Biscoe's discovery of Enderby Land, February, 1831.

Another question that remains to be settled is whether the Antarctic continent once formed part of a land bridge between South America and Australia. According to a paper presented by Dr. G. G. Simpson, geologist, American Museum of Natural History, New York, students of zoogeography have supported such a theory as a result of fossil finds along such a speculative bridge, but there is little substantial evidence to bear this theory out from a geological standpoint.

While Dr. L. M. Gould, geologist of Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., and geologist with Admiral Byrd in the Antarctic, advised the Congress that Antarctica possessed a unity of climate, life and geographic conditions which are without parallel among the continental land masses of the earth, the surface of the great continent is not all snow and ice. The inland ice does not completely submerge the rocky sub-structure. In and around Palmer Land, mountain glaciers of great variety, island ice and shelf ice are the characteristic forms in which glaciation is manifested. But little is known of the ocean margins, where the ice meets the major waters of the Pacific Ocean. It is reasonable to assume that the inland ice moves directly into the sea over wide areas.

However, the former lofty mountains of Antarctica have been greatly lowered through erosion and glacial action, according to a paper presented by Dr. F.

Alton Wade, geologist of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Today some of those mountains are represented only by their igneous cores. Dr. Wade is also of the opinion that Palmer Land and related islands comprise a continuation of the Andean mountain chain of South America, while to the east in the Australian Quadrant is the great Antarctic Horst or depressed tract of the earth's crust, which is thought to be a continuation of the East Australian Horsts.

Climatically the continent of Antarctica exerts a tremendous influence over the whole south Pacific, according to Dr. Paul A. Siple, of Clark University, Worcester, Mass. While present knowledge of climatic conditions is restricted to only five or six areas where meteorological stations are maintained, Antarctica appears to be under the control of a shallow, glacial anticyclone which periodically exchanges across the southern Pacific Ocean great masses of cold polar air for warmer masses.

Both Drs. Wade and Siple have been with Admiral Byrd in the Antarctic and will be members on the forthcoming U. S. Antarctic expedition.

Science News Letter, August 12, 1939

Volcanic Eruption Forecast

TILTING of the ground near active volcanoes suggests the possibility of forecasting coming eruptive activities, it was reported by Prof. Takeshi Minakami, Earthquake Research Institute, Tokyo Imperial University.

Tilting on a large scale preceded by about two months the explosive activity of the volcano Mount Asama, which began on April 20, 1935, he said. The marked changes in the inclination of the ground during the active stage of the volcano clearly differ from the seasonal and other variations.

Marked changes in the crater floor of Asama during eruptions were described by Prof. Minakami. Two phenomena were noted, one wherein the floor rose as a whole and the other in which ex-

plosions ejected a part of the floor from the crater in the form of volcanic bombs and ash. These two conditions differ greatly in character.

Science News Letter, August 12, 1939

Fly Is Leprosy Carrier

THE COMMON house fly was indicted by a French scientist of the Pasteur Institute in Paris as a carrier of leprosy.

It is the only insect that carries the micro-organism causing the dread disease, Dr. E. Marchoux declared before the meeting.

However, conditions must be favorable for the disease generally before even the fly can transmit it, Dr. Marchoux said. Matters of environment, lack of cleanliness, climate and other factors enter into the picture.

Science News Letter, August 12, 1939

Pacific Raised Five Feet

TRANSPACIFIC aviation, using coral atolls like Midway Island as "stepping stones" on the long over-water hops, would probably not yet be possible if the land had not been raised some five feet in recent times, Dr. Harold T. Stearns of the U. S. Geological Survey, told the meeting.

There is a "five-foot bench" in the Pacific Dr. Stearns said. "So many coral atolls, as for example Midway Island, stand about five feet above sea level that there can be little doubt that an emergence of approximately five feet has occurred in recent time," he said. By "recent," geologists mean the epoch of time following the last Ice Age some 20,000 years ago.

Science News Letter, August 12, 1939

Pressure Linked to Quakes

IN CERTAIN regions earthquakes nearly always occur after a fall of atmospheric pressure, and in others after a rise in pressure, the fall being most common over the sea and the rise over the land.

This is indicated by a report by Dr. R. C. Hayes, acting director of the Dominion Observatory, Wellington, New Zealand.

He investigated the effects of atmospheric changes on the occurrence of 200 prominent earthquakes in the New Zealand region over the period of 1931 to 1936, noting the pressure change during an interval from one to two days before the occurrence of the earthquake. The results, plotted on a map, indicated that

sea earthquakes were preceded by a fall of pressure and land earthquakes by a rise.

"As a fall of pressure indicates a removal of load," he said, "and a rise an

increase of load, it is considered that the results give some indication of the general crustal movements at present taking place in the regions concerned."

Science News Letter, August 12, 1939

PUBLIC HEALTH

Precedent-Making Decision Needed in A.M.A. Case

Decision of Federal District Justice Proctor Does Not Necessarily Foreshadow Similar Opinions

FFEDERAL District Justice James M. Proctor's decision throwing out the indictment of the American Medical Association on charges of violating the Sherman anti-trust law does not necessarily foreshadow similar opinions in higher courts which would end the government case, lawyers conversant with Federal court custom pointed out.

U. S. District courts almost without exception, one attorney said, do not hand down precedent-making decisions such as a sustainer of the indictment would be. The indictment broadens the legal term "trade" to include the practice of medicine as well as ordinary business.

Justice Proctor threw out the indictment of the A.M.A. for its attacks on Group Health Association, government employees' medical cooperative, on the ground that the Sherman act, as interpreted by the courts in the past, does not count medical practice as a trade. It is a learned profession and the law, he implies, does not say anything about restraint of learned professions. This is his opinion despite the fact that doctors in suing each other under common law have alleged "restraint of trade."

New departures in law, such as finding that the practice of medicine has become a "trade" in the last few years within the meaning of the Sherman law, are customarily left up to the U. S. Circuit Courts of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

"The government attorneys should have expected the decision," it was said. "Perhaps they did. It is many years since a District judge did anything but follow the custom."

The ever more liberal Supreme Court, which has shown a willingness to rewrite old legal terms in view of changed conditions today, may well be willing also to sustain the indictment.

Another possible avenue of attack for the Department of Justice in its determination to stop interference with coop-

erative medical groups, as foreseen in legal circles, involves stopping government payments to District hospitals which discriminate against the Group Health Association. Several still do.

Hospitals are paid out of District funds for charity cases they accept. In some instances, this is a substantial part of the hospital's income.

"Such payments of taxpayers' money to hospitals which discriminate against some of the taxpayers by refusing to accept G. H. A. patients may be illegal." This approach is seen in addition to the possibility, suggested by Attorney General Murphy, of summoning another Grand Jury and re-indicting the A.M.A. and its co-defendants.

Science News Letter, August 12, 1939

ZOOLOGY

Museum Immortalizes Turtle's Record Egg Laying

FROM expeditions that bring back for our museums strange and interesting things: A record turtle egg-laying performance of Mamma loggerhead on Sanibel Island off the Florida coast, 55 minutes for the entire nesting performance, leaving water, digging nest, laying eggs, covering with sand. It is soon to be immortalized by a habitat exhibit at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History.

Two new and rare birds from Sumatra were gathered by George Vanderbilt's expedition for Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences. One was a brown finch whose nearest relatives perished 32 years ago in a volcanic eruption; another was a thrush that a European might mistake for a blackbird.

Science News Letter, August 12, 1939

About one adult in 150 in this country is in a mental hospital.