

white men and women survived the first international war on American soil and turned Eskimo, and that their survivors may be seen today among the fairer Eskimos of Greenland.

Explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson in his new book, "Unsolved Mysteries of the Arctic," declares that "the question of whether the European colony disappeared by extermination or amalgamation threatens to become an absurdly nationalistic issue." Most Danes favor the extermination theory; Norwegians favor amalgamation.

Stefansson himself provides ammunition for the amalgamation faction. He argues: A plague would have weakened Eskimos no less than the Norse settlers. Malnutrition would hardly have stricken Norsemen if they fell back on the diet on which Eskimos thrive; but on the contrary a mixed diet of imported food, and meat handled in the European manner, might have brought about diet deficiencies. And long-ago observers who reported that the Norse had been wiped out may have misunderstood what they saw. One party saw, in fact, merely a deserted farm of the settlers, and believed them dead; whereas, it may have been that they were off hunting caribou or catching salmon. But the silence of the farm seemed ominous, and the party sailed away to report general tragedy.

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Science News Letter, August 19, 1939

PUBLIC HEALTH

League of Nations Helping Chinese To Fight Plague

THE CHINESE Government is getting aid from the League of Nations in its fight against plague, cholera, malaria and other epidemic diseases, the League's Health Organization announces.

Experts in the fight against plague and cholera are now working in the northwest and center of China, reports Dr. M. D. Mackenzie, who has just returned from China where he has helped arrange for League assistance to the Chinese Government. The League has established a transport service to provide these experts with the stores they need for the fight against plague and cholera.

Health conditions on the road to Burma, China's lifeline at present, are under the supervision of a League expert who is serving as technical adviser to the Chinese Government. Malaria is particularly malignant in regions traversed

by this road and constitutes a serious menace to the transport workers, the road menders and the regions to which the road leads. Much of the work of the medical and engineering experts has been concentrated on this road, at the request of the Chinese Government. One of the League engineers is responsible for supervising the upkeep of the road, particularly during the rainy season which lasts from June to November.

Considerable quantities of medical and

sanitary stores have been provided by the League for China's anti-epidemic campaign. Besides quinine, these include several tons of chloride of lime for disinfecting wells in cholera-infected areas, several million doses of cholera and smallpox vaccines, equipment for 30 mobile bacteriological laboratories, and the necessary drugs for treating cholera, dysentery, relapsing fever and similar epidemic ailments.

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ENGINEERING—AGRICULTURE

New Soviet Tractor Performs Twenty-Two Operations

A NEW kind of electrical tractor that cultivates hotbeds mechanically with increased yields is being demonstrated on a large hotbed area of agricultural exhibition grounds in Moscow.

Invented by Vagan Mkrtchian, the new hotbed combine performs 22 different operations, according to a Tass report.

It is a small machine that looks somewhat like an old-fashioned limousine. It moves along the hotbeds from one row to another, opens their glass frames as it approaches and closes them again when it moves on. The operator manipu-

lates several levers in his cab, and the machine performs the various processes of cultivation and sowing in the hotbeds.

It brings soil to the hotbeds, scatters and levels it, marks out the rows, sows vegetables, waters them, weeds, adds fertilizers, sprays chemicals, pollinates plants, etc.

The design of the machine is very simple. Its metal frame is equipped with levers which open and close the glass frames, thus ventilating the hotbeds. Special tanks are mounted for water, mineral fertilizers and spray liquids.

In autumn and early spring when no



NO BREAKAGE

This tractor in the greenhouse is on legitimate business. It is mechanizing the cultivation of greenhouse plants in the Soviet.