

dry-weight tons per acre for the western Iowa area, 3.54 tons per acre in the country around Lincoln, Neb., and 3.17 in the drier region southwest of Lincoln. This falling curve closely follows the falling curve of annual precipitation for the same areas.

Organic matter in the soil—the stuff that comes from decaying plants and

gives life and energy to the soil—also decreased uniformly with less rainfall. In western Iowa it constitutes 7 per cent by weight of the surface four inches of soil. In eastern Nebraska there is only 6 per cent. This falls to 4.5 per cent in central Kansas and finally to about 2.5 per cent in Colorado.

Science News Letter, September 2, 1939

MEDICINE

New Anti-Pneumonia Drug Can Damage White Blood Cells

Find Trouble in Three Children Who Were Treated With Sulfapyridine; Sulfanilamide Also Has Effect

WARNING that the drug sulfapyridine, used successfully in treating pneumonia, can damage dangerously the white blood cells is contained in a report by Drs. Nathan Rosenthal and Peter Vogel of New York City. (*Journal American Medical Association*, Aug. 12)

They found granulocytopenia in three children treated with the drug. Sulfanilamide also causes the trouble, and cases caused by sulfapyridine have previously been reported in adults. Careful tests of blood for possible danger signs are advised when the drug is being used.

Science News Letter, September 2, 1939

Feeds on Human Ear Drum

A UNIQUE case of a Japanese beetle feeding on the ear drum of a man is reported by Dr. Max Kimbrig of Huntington, N. Y. The legs or biting equipment of the beetle were stuck fast in the ear drum when Dr. Kimbrig removed it, and a large part of the drum was perforated.

"Since the Japanese beetle is herbivorous, it is difficult to understand his appetite for human ear drums," Dr. Kimbrig reports. "I have been unable to find in the literature any report of the destruction of an ear drum by a beetle that lives on plants."

Science News Letter, September 2, 1939

New Light on Cancer

THE RECENT report of two Dutch scientists, Drs. Fritz Kogl and Hanni Erxleben, that they had found unnatural forms of amino acids in malignant tissues, is given notice in the *Journal*, an editorial stating that, if confirmed by other workers and if all types of cancer

tissues contain them, "a new and fertile field for study into the nature of cancer will be opened."

Science News Letter, September 2, 1939

Vitamin F Declared Dead

DECLARING that vitamin F has not been established as a vitamin although it has been commercialized by firms marketing cosmetics, an A.M.A. committee has endorsed the elimination of the term by the American Society of Biological Chemists and the American Institute of Nutrition. Reduction of the number of vitamin A and D preparations is recommended. Even since the committee on vitamins made its most recent report, the *Journal* observes that "vitamin B₆ has been synthesized, the chemistry of vitamin K has been clarified to a considerable extent, and evidence has accumulated about the significance of these factors and of riboflavin in nutrition."

Science News Letter, September 2, 1939

SOCIOLOGY

Labor Laws Make School's Job Bigger

LABOR laws raising the age at which children can enter industry has had one effect which many people may not have heard about. One result of these laws, Miss Katharine F. Lenroot, chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau, has pointed out, is to increase the number of children in schools by many thousands.

In some localities this has made the matter of space an acute problem. The principal problem, according to Miss Lenroot, is that of meeting the needs of adolescent boys and girls.

RADIO

Dr. H. E. Howe, editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, 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, September 11, 4:30 p.m., EDT, 3:30 EST, 2:30 CST, 1:30 MST, 12:30 PST. Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Monday.

"The very fact that in the past many boys and girls were inclined to leave school at the age of 14 may indicate that some particular need of the child is not being met by the school," Miss Lenroot said. "At no time in life, perhaps, do restlessness and the spirit of adventure become such definite factors in the child's life. Practically all juvenile delinquents are children of school age."

Miss Lenroot does not, of course, hold the school entirely responsible for juvenile delinquency. Home environment and the attitude of the parents play a large part. But it is usually during his school days that the child's most serious delinquency develops and the school is therefore most intimately involved.

Schools are meeting the problem first, by giving more attention to the person being taught than to the things he is being taught; second, by giving vocational training and guidance; third, by establishing child guidance centers or other services for getting at the underlying cause of a child's dissatisfaction with school and remedying it.

"When the school program is enriched and vitalized so that the needs of all children are met, school becomes an exciting experience," Miss Lenroot said. "When teachers can and do know the kind of children with whom they work, they can make a great contribution to preventing delinquency and to promoting the welfare of all children."

Science News Letter, September 2, 1939

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