



DOWN TO EARTH

Dr. Schmidt uses his facts gained in air views in patient hours of digging out fragile relics of the past.

over Cyrus the Great's capital and tomb, because some day there may be further discoveries there. But there will be no finding of the Persian king himself in the pomp and splendor of an Egyptian Tutankhamen. Within 200 years of his death, Cyrus was routed out of his golden coffin and his tomb was plundered of regal possessions by an invading army. Soldiers of Alexander the Great, without Alexander's knowledge, looted the tomb of Cyrus.

It has been believed that the capital where Cyrus ruled as founder of the Persian Empire was mainly a governmental area, a place of palaces and parks with no continuous settlement of houses and shops. Air views now support this

belief, though Dr. Schmidt cautiously suggests that floods and farming might have flattened out any residential areas that existed, hiding them completely.

There still remain mounds of earth at Pasargadae—as the first Persian capital was called—which have not been probed at all. And the fortified area of the capital, the enclosure of which was first discovered from the air, offers attractive possibilities for learning more about one of the great rulers of long ago.

Persepolis, which became the capital of the Persian Empire under Darius, and which was first occupied and then wrecked in Alexander's world march, has within recent years been unearthed by an expedition working under the auspices of the Oriental Institute, Chi-

cago, the University Museum of Philadelphia and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Much more about Persia's part in world history has been revealed as a result of such digging. The names of the nations of Xerxes' famed empire were found engraved on cornerstone tablets, and beautiful reliefs emerged from the debris of the palatial structures of Persepolis.

Genghis Khan's Mongols and Tamerlane the terrible are among invaders who have wrought destruction to Iran's beautiful cities. The city of Rayy, in its time the most sumptuous city in the world next to Baghdad, fell prey to both these conquering hordes.

Science News Letter, December 14, 1940

MEDICINE

Radium and X-Ray Treatment Advised for Brain Tumors

BRAIN tumors can be successfully and safely treated by large doses of radium or X-rays, Dr. Ira L. Kaplan, of Bellevue Hospital and New York University, reported to the Radiological Society of North America, meeting at Cleveland.

New knowledge of radiation treatment, Dr. Kaplan said, enables physicians to use larger, and therefore more effective, doses than they dared to use in the past when it was feared such doses might harm the brain tissue as well as destroying the tumor.

In most cases, he said, radiation treatment should follow surgical treatment, but in some cases irradiation alone produces the desired results.

Science News Letter, December 14, 1940

Shorten Legs of Cripples

THE crippling effects of infantile paralysis or other ailments which leave the patient with one leg shorter than the other can be overcome by X-ray treatments to shorten the longer leg, Dr. Davis Spangler, of Dallas, Texas, reported.

Success with such treatment of four patients from the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children was reported by Dr. Spangler.

The idea of the treatment is that short legs of nearly equal length are preferable to legs of unequal length. Various surgical methods of equalizing leg length have been tried. The X-ray treatment

acts, it was explained, by stopping bone growth. In the four cases reported Dr. Spangler said the X-ray treatments gave a more uniform result than surgical treatments, although the X-ray treatments took longer to accomplish the result.

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Soviet agriculturists report that cucumbers, radishes and lettuce are being grown in *northern areas* where the temperatures may drop to six below freezing Centigrade in July.

To provide a *clear road* for fast cars up and down a long hill near Nashville, Tenn., a separate lane of red concrete has been constructed for slow trucks climbing the grade.

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