

vive without the benefit of the respirator than to save the life of one terribly paralyzed," he declares.

You can have your child or yourself vaccinated against smallpox, inoculated against diphtheria, whooping cough, lockjaw, typhoid fever and even yellow fever, if you should need to live in yellow fever infested regions. You cannot, unfortunately, provide yourself or your children with the same sort of protection against infantile paralysis. Protective vaccinations have been tried but they not only failed to protect but in some cases, authorities believe, actually caused the disease.

### Keep Away From Crowds

About the only thing you can do which might help you to avoid this ailment is to cut down on visiting and attendance at public gatherings and to keep children away from crowds generally if there is an epidemic of infantile paralysis. The disease can be spread not only by sick people but by healthy persons who have recovered from it or perhaps never had it in any recognizable form but are still carrying and discharging the germs. This is what makes it so hard to stop an epidemic. Isolation of all patients is important but does not completely stop the spread.

Recent discoveries show that getting tired out and staying too long in the water when swimming, perhaps because of the chilling as well as the exertion in the last case, may help to bring on an attack. These conditions made monkeys more susceptible to the germ, or virus, of the disease. Many authorities therefore caution parents to be especially careful not to let children get over-tired and to cut down on the amount of swimming they do. Grown-ups should follow the same advice themselves. Infantile paralysis is not limited to children, in spite of its name, and grown-ups anxious to make the most of every minute of a short holiday or vacation are quite likely to get over-tired and to stay too long in the water when they go to the beach or pool.

Remember that even if the disease cannot yet be prevented altogether, its crippling and deforming effects can in large measure be prevented by prompt, adequate treatment.

*Science News Letter, August 23, 1941*

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has two *dummy* vases of solid wood painted to resemble real vases of hard stone, which were found in the tomb of an Egyptian priest.

#### MEDICINE

## Army Has Special Course In Tropical Medicine

**I**N preparation for whatever action the United States may take in the current Latin American and Far Eastern disturbances, the War Department announces that a special course of instruction in tropical diseases has been organized at the Army Medical School, in Washington, D. C.

Doctors taking the course will learn how to fight the cholera and leprosy that are widespread in such countries as China; bejel, a non-venereal form of syphilis occurring among the Arabs of the middle Euphrates Valley; pinta, the spotted sickness of Mexico and other tropical countries; Oroya fever, an infectious disease found in Peru; and "Q" fever, a new disease found first in Australia.

In addition to tropical diseases that are rare and in some cases unknown in the United States, malaria will receive paramount consideration, but no disease is too obscure or too remote to be of great importance to the Army Medical Corps.

Vaccination against yellow fever has already been started among troops serving or likely to serve in regions such as Latin America and Africa where it is prevalent.

*Science News Letter, August 23, 1941*

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

## Big Jump in Sleeping Sickness Reported From the Dakotas

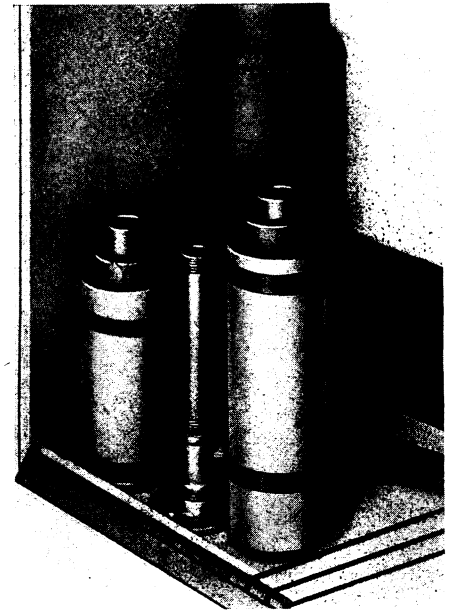
**A** BIG jump in the sleeping sickness (encephalitis) cases in North Dakota has been reported to the U. S. Public Health Service.

The number of people stricken with this disease in the week ending August 9 was 178—more than three times the number of cases reported during the previous week.

In South Dakota, the number has also more than tripled. Cases reported jumped from 19 during the week of August 2 up to 61 for last week.

A slow report by mail brought news to Washington that Texas had 10 cases of sleeping sickness during the week ending August 2. Nothing has yet come in on the following week's toll.

Dr. James P. Leake, who was sent to North Dakota by the Public Health



**STREAMLINED PIPES**

*Even air conditioning equipment is given modern artistic lines these days. This is a model cut-away section of Carrier conduit system, showing insulated pipes for hot and cold water and small drain pipe and, in the rear, air supply conduit with front take-off. Air conditioning installations, in both old and new buildings, are simplified with this new system. The conditioned air is distributed with high velocity through conduits about the size of an ordinary steam pipe and a ninth the size of former ducts.*

Service to help in battling the disease, reports that circumstantial evidence indicates the outbreak is of the Western equine type, or horse sleeping sickness.

First official word concerning the number of deaths in this outbreak came from Dr. Leake in North Dakota. He reports 41 deaths there out of 285 cases. This is a lower mortality than is usual for this disease.

Infantile paralysis is still on the increase, but, except in the South, the situation is not any more alarming than it has been in recent weeks, reports to the U. S. Public Health Service indicate.

Southern states, which have been having large numbers of cases in previous weeks, are still having them. Alabama, hardest hit by the disease, reports a jump from 49 cases, for the week ending