

the effect of the alcohol will, when mildly intoxicated, become very careful of what he says and does.

The one who enjoys the feeling of intoxication will become more friendly and suggestible.

There is no way to predict the per-

sonality changes that alcohol will produce, the investigators say. Apparently the only way to determine which of the different effects alcohol will have on a particular individual is to give him a drink.

*Science News Letter, September 13, 1941*

## RESOURCES

## British in Persia Owe Oil To Man Who Risked His Skin

### Lively Adventures Are Recounted in Published Diary Of Sir Arnold Wilson Who Took the Arabs' Dares

**C**LINCHING a wartime grip on the vastly important oil resources of Persia, the British can give special thanks to a daring and tough-skinned Britisher, Sir Arnold Wilson, who years ago scouted for Persia's oil.

Sir Arnold's lively adventures, the milder of which include sleeping on the ground (the better to hear rifle shots), wading naked in marshes, and riding horseback 100 miles in one day to a business appointment, are told in a timely publication of his diary in England. Soberly titled, *South-West Persia. A political officer's diary, 1907-1914*, the volume brings back an era when most of southwest Persia had never been traversed by a surveyor.

In his first year, Sir Arnold roamed 3,000 miles of Persia on horseback and on foot. The next year, his government made him acting consul at Mohammerah near the Persian Gulf. But his surveying went on. The island where the big Abadan refineries now stand, not far from his headquarters, was one place where he worked, profitably.

To win confidence and respect of tribes through whose mountain and desert country he must travel, Wilson did anything that an Arab would, and things that an Arab wouldn't. Wilson once leaped a 15-foot chasm over a river flowing 50 feet below, when Arabs, who were supposed to dare this leap, held back. The Wilson leap won prestige.

Shooting an ibex at 600 feet was another Wilson stunt which made friends and influenced a prejudiced tribe.

When Wilson was given a detachment of Bengal lancers to guard drillers at an oil concession, he met a soldier problem in characteristic fashion. The troops grumbled over some new equipment.

Too heavy, they said. Wilson took up the rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition and marched 34 miles through one night. In order to survey possible routes inland from Bushire on the Gulf, the hardy explorer traveled by day through August heat, to avoid trouble with thieves. The sun was too hot for the marauders, and even Wilson's wax candles melted at night, but the mapping went on.

On journeys where drinking water had to come from filthy and germ-laden cisterns, Wilson strained water through his shirt and somehow lived.

Returning home on leave, his idea of a change was to work his passage as a stoker, doing double shifts so efficiently that fellow stokers gave him a dinner. He liked that tremendously.

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## INVENTION

### Device on Golf Club Will Measure Your Swing

**H**OW STRONG is your golf swing? A recently patented device that can be slipped over the golf club, baseball bat, or any other club, makes it possible to determine the intensity of the swing. A weight is moved by centrifugal force against a spring, and a marker indicates the farthest point reached by the weight. (Lewis T. Stumpf, Cleveland, Ohio, Patent No. 2,244,972.)

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To stop hiccups, Dr. A. A. Thomen of New York suggests: hold a paper bag for a few minutes over nose and mouth of the hiccup victim, so that he can breathe in and out of the bag, and thus inhale carbon dioxide to stimulate respiratory nerve centers to stop the spasms.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Infantile Paralysis Cases Declining Over the Nation

**T**HE INFANTILE paralysis and "sleeping sickness" or encephalitis outbreaks of the summer are about over, according to latest reports received at the U. S. Public Health Service headquarters in Washington, D. C.

With reports from all but two states in, the nation's total infantile paralysis cases were 556 for the week ending August 30, compared with 611 for the previous week. Reports from Pennsylvania and South Dakota may send the total figure up, but health officials are encouraged by the fact that southern states, which had all been reporting high figures, now all show declines in infantile paralysis and there are no significant increases and some declines in the number of cases in northern states.

For encephalitis, North Dakota reported 98 cases, compared to 120 the previous week, and Minnesota reported 51, instead of 95. South Dakota, with 38 cases the week of Aug. 23, has not reported any cases for the past week. Colorado reported 32, compared with 20 the previous week.

*Science News Letter, September 13, 1941*

A century ago, *potatoes* were comparatively unknown in India, but now they are one of the most widely grown vegetables of the country.

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