

## PHYSIOLOGY

# Chinese Develop Tooth Caries On Contact With Occidental

**Chinese Born and Brought Up in America Have Twice As Many Decayed Teeth as Immigrants from China**

CHINESE have suffered in at least one respect through their contact with Occidental civilization: their teeth go bad, and in direct proportion to their degree of contact, at that. Chinese born and brought up in America have, on the average, twice as many decayed teeth as immigrant Chinese who were brought up in China, Dr. G. W. Lasker of the Harvard Medical School told the meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Cambridge, Mass.

The correlation between Occidental contact and tooth caries shows itself even in the China-born group, Dr. Lasker continued. Immigrants from the most modernized communities, particularly Hong Kong, show most tooth decay. Furthermore, Chinese-born immigrants show more caries than Chinese who remain at home in China; those who come to this country young develop more caries than those who arrive at a mature age; finally, American-born Chinese who have spent part of their lives in China have fewer tooth cavities than those who never visit their ancestral land.

Dr. Lasker confessed himself unable to assign a cause with any real positiveness: "Because, in the few respects in which they differ, the diet of the Chinese in America is superior to the diet in China, it is unlikely that a protective food has been dropped from the diet. It is more likely that some non-dietetic influence in the environment is important in producing more frequent caries in American-born Chinese, or that some

agent capable of producing caries—perhaps sugar—has been added to the Chinese diet."

*Science News Letter, April 25, 1942*

## No Anterior Arch

THAT "anterior metatarsal arch" about which foot specialists talk so learnedly just doesn't exist when the

foot is at work, Dr. Herbert Elftman of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, told the meeting. Dr. Elftman has invented an instrument which shows the distribution of weights and pressures on the sole of the functioning foot, and it does not show the existence of an anterior arch at all. It will be necessary, therefore, he said, to re-interpret "fallen metatarsal arches" in terms of differential distribution of pressures among the ends of the metatarsals, or long bones of the foot.

Practical application of his instrument was suggested by Dr. Elftman: "The apparatus used in this investigation offers a rapid method for the accurate evaluation of the functional capacity of the feet and should be useful in determining the suitability of individuals for occupations involving sustained use of the feet."

*Science News Letter, April 25, 1942*

## PUBLIC HEALTH

# German Health Is Poor Report From London Says

A POOR state of health in Germany is revealed in the latest report to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* from its London correspondent (April 18).

"Information showing that undernourishment and fatigue are beginning to tell on the population" has been received in London, the correspondent says.

Attempts to combat fatigue with stimulants such as amphetamine, known to Americans as "pep pills," have been abandoned as utter failures, according to reports in two issues of a German medical journal, the *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift*, which had just reached London. Apparently significant of the extent of the problem of fatigue is the fact that the major part of two December issues of this medical journal are devoted to the effects of prolonged fatigue on health.

In a copy of another German medical journal, the *Muenchener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, the date of which is not given, "Dr. G. Seiffert sets out to prove that precautions suggested by previous wars kept epidemics under control until the outbreak of the conflict on the eastern front, but," says the J.A.M.A. correspondent, "his figures suggest the opposite."

"Cases of diphtheria during the

first five weeks of 1931 numbered 25,144; in 1939, 65,144; in 1941, 65,775. For scarlet fever the figures were in 1931, 19,494; in 1940, 56,154; in 1941, 167,428. For dysentery, 1931, 2,596; 1939, 6,135; 1940, 12,705. Similar increases are shown for whooping cough, tuberculosis and food poisoning.

"The average number of cases of disease given in 1931 is increased threefold in 1939 and sixfold in 1941."

*Science News Letter, April 25, 1942*

Our Indians had no horses or cattle until the Spaniards brought these animals to this continent.

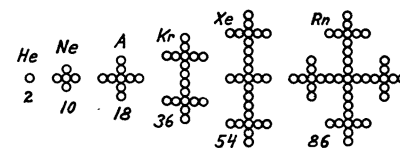
Wealthy Chinese used to pay \$100 apiece for good fighting crickets.

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## ESSAYS ON THE NEW VORTEX ATOM



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C. F. KRAFFT

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