required for radio purposes are rare. Amateur prospectors who want to help the war effort may send sample crystals, which they may discover lining cavities in rock or in the dirt and gravel nearby, to the Miscellaneous Minerals Division, War Production Board, Temporary R Building, Washington, D. C.

Only separate crystals as clear as glass are wanted, not clusters or grainy masses. Colored quartz, such as amethyst and onyx, cannot be used. Each crystal must weigh at least a half pound; measured in inches such a crystal will be about an inch in diameter and three inches long. The whole crystal need not be perfect but large portions must be entirely free from specks, bubbles, lines, clouds, or flaws of any kind. Good parts must be at least two cubic inches in size and at least half as large as the imperfect section, otherwise it is not practicable to saw out the good portions.

Science News Letter, August 7, 1943

PUBLIC HEALTH

Major Epidemic Feared

National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis sees signs in cases already reported that 1943 may be one for the records. Peak will come later.

➤ "1943 MAY go down on the records as one of the major epidemic years for infantile paralysis," the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis warns on the basis of the number of cases reported so far (See page 83 for new figures.)

The warning, carried to local chapters of the Foundation in its publication, *National Foundation News* (July), points out that "accurate predictions are impossible.

"Analysis of the situation at the end of the first 26 weeks of the year," the statement continues, "shows the total number of cases to be higher than for any of the past 12 years, excepting 1934. During the first six months, 1,084 cases were reported from 42 states. The six-month average for the past ten years is 841.

"We know from records for the past 25 years that the peak of each year's outbreak, when figured for the country as a whole, is not reached until sometime between mid-August and mid-September. These records further reveal that the sharp increase in incidence occurs between July 1 and September 1 with a corresponding sharp decline during the ensuing two months.

"Even if 1943 has only an average number of cases there will be difficult problems for those areas that experience epidemics. With so many doctors, public health workers, nurses and physical therapy technicians serving in the Armed Forces, most communities won't be as well prepared as in former years to cope with an outbreak. Many will find a real challenge in the problem of providing ordinary and adequate care for their population without the added burden of an epidemic of infantile paralysis."

The National Foundation is doing all it can to supply epidemic areas with workers trained in the Kenny treatment. Local chapters are urged to work and plan with local and state medical and health authorities as well as with the National Foundation in order to be able to meet the needs that will arise when and if the epidemic strikes them.

Science News Letter, August 7, 1943

Bulgaria, it is reported, gathered and exported in 1942 nearly 7,000 tons of *medicinal herbs* from wild and cultivated plants.

● RADIO

Saturday, Aug. 14, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. E. D. Merrill, of Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, will tell about his South Seas Manual of Emergency Foods and Poisonous Plants.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Washing and Fixing Films With Sea Water Speeds Job

➤ SEA WATER with a final wash of fresh water will reduce the time of removing hypo and permit a fairly better non-fading image on films and prints than that of washing in fresh water alone. Mr. G. T. Eaton and J. I. Crabtree of Kodak Research Laboratories offer this time-saving possibility. (*American Photography,* June).

They have found that salts in seawater dehydrate the gelatin in the film, making it possible for the hypo to be washed from the film rapidly. When the film is washed in fresh water the retained hypo diffuses from the gelatin only slowly.

The one fault found in this washing in sea water was in the fact that the image was prone to fade more rapidly than when it was washed in fresh water, due to the presence of the sea salts. They found that this could be eliminated by removing the sea salts with a final fresh-water wash. Despite the necessity of this additional fresh-water wash, the time of removing the hypo and fixation of the image was still reduced by five to 25 minutes or better.

The procedure they suggest would be to wash in sea water for one-half the prescribed washing time for the material and then wash in fresh water for about five minutes, either in running water or two changes of water.

Science News Letter, August 7, 1943

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