

ZOOLOGY

Plans for National Zoo

► A "MASTER PLAN" for expanding the facilities of the National Zoological Park was presented to the Smithsonian Institution by the Friends of the National Zoo in Washington, D. C.

The plan is aimed at preventing the Park from "becoming a second-rate municipal zoo." The crisis, the Friends believe, is due chiefly to the fact that zoo expenses are included in the District of Columbia budget.

A spokesman for the District Commissioners agreed with the Friends' position that a National Zoo should be nationally financed.

The Master Plan was conceived by landscape architects Meade Palmer and Morris Trotter, both retained by the Friends, a non-profit organization. It would provide more working space by keeping autos out of the central park area, turning the road that cuts through the middle into a "greenway" for pedestrians, building a road around the park, and providing parking space for 3,000 to 4,000 cars on the zoo's outskirts. Thirteen new buildings would be added,

and Rock Creek would be rechanneled to form a picnic island.

The main entrance on Connecticut Avenue would be widened into an oval plaza including a new and larger restaurant, a new administration building and a public auditorium. This area could remain open in the evening when the rest of the park is closed. A new hospital and research center would be added as well as a guest house for visiting scientists and research workers, and a "monkey island."

Another major feature of the plan is a proposed breeding zoo—several thousand acres located some distance from Washington. This second zoo would be used for basic research and for breeding species threatened with extinction in their native habitats.

Dr. Theodore Reed, director of the zoo, said the ideal situation would be to have several breeding zoos, strategically placed in various locations across the country.

Whether the plan will be adopted by the Smithsonian, which directs the zoo, is uncertain. Dr. Leonard Carmichael, Secretary of the Smithsonian, said he was very

impressed with the plan and would present it to the trustees but could not predict what action they would take.

Where the necessary funds would come from has not been discussed yet, but the plan is so constructed that it could be completed in five years or 25 years, as the money became available.

• Science News Letter, 78:442 December 31, 1960

Do You Know

One of the glands that controls social existence and produces harmony in bee colonies has been successfully removed from living *bees* for the first time.

Oil from an offshore well can now be transported directly to shore through a pipe on the ocean bottom.

Young adults, particularly women, are the chief victims of multiple *sclerosis*, which strikes one out of every 820 Americans.

The destruction of agricultural insect *pests* is one of the most important tasks in man's fight against hunger.

The microdosimeter, a tiny new device for measuring *radiation* dosage anywhere within the body, has been developed.

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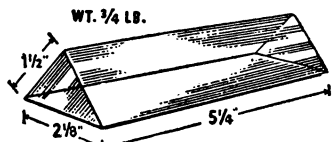
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MEDICINE

Syphilis Increases in U. S.

► INFECTIOUS SYPHILIS in five United States cities has increased more than 400% in the 1960 fiscal year, compared with fiscal 1957.

The cities are Long Beach and Oakland, Calif., and Newark, N. J., New Orleans, La., and Seattle, Wash., according to the latest report from the Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. William J. Brown, chief, venereal disease branch, U. S. Public Health Service, said much of the syphilis is occurring among teen-agers and often in quarters where it would be least suspected.

Other cities that have reported a 100% or more increase are:

On the East Coast, Atlanta, 100%; Jacksonville, Fla., 115%; Pittsburgh, 163%; Philadelphia, 267%; New York, 305%; District of Columbia, 345%; Miami, 368%.

In the Middle States, Houston, 104%; Chicago, 109%; Dallas, 140%; Fort Worth, 206%.

On the West Coast, San Francisco, 157%; San Diego, 180%; Los Angeles, 274%; Portland, 290%.

Public Health authorities advise anyone who suspects he has a venereal disease to be treated at once. He can report to his private physician or to the local health department.

In most cases the cure is fairly simple with benzathine penicillin, or in cases of allergy to this antibiotic, with erythromycin or tetracycline. Persistent follow-up is necessary for extended treatment and observation.

One of the results of untreated syphilis

is the dangerous psychosis known as paresis. Dr. Brown said it is not generally known that the care of paretics in tax-supported mental institutions alone is costing \$48,000,000 a year—a fraction of the total cost of this disease.

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RADIO ASTRONOMY

Remnant of Supernova Cause of Galactic "Spur"

► THE REMNANT of a supernova, a star that suddenly explodes to a brightness equal to hundreds of millions of suns, may cause the long-puzzling feature of the Milky Way galaxy known as the "spur."

This curious feature can be seen only when the sky is scanned by radio waves. It gives no visible effects, but this may be because a dying supernova would have low optical brightness.

The radio radiation emitted by the spur is fairly intense, Drs. R. Hanbury Brown, R. D. Davies and C. Hazard of the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories, Jodrell Bank, Macclesfield, England, report. The spur appears to emerge from the plane of the Milky Way galaxy at a longitude of about 30 degrees and run upward toward the north galactic pole. The explanation of the radio sky's curious feature is outlined in the Observatory, 80:191, 1960, a report of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, London.

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