

The Brain Drain: A Bargaining Point

British heart-lung machine technicians threaten a mass emigration to the United States in their drive for better pay and conditions.

They raise the specter of patients dying for lack of their help.

Twelve technicians are said to be planning to leave for the U.S. before Christmas and another 18 are considering emigration.

These figures were given by Colin Green of the Cardio-Vascular Thoracic Technicians' Association. He said Britain's 85 heart-lung machine technicians were planning a medical mutiny over grievances about pay, prospects and training.

In Manchester, John Wagstaffe, chief heart-lung technician at the Royal Infirmary, said a mass emigration of technicians would place many patients' lives in grave jeopardy.

"This is not our responsibility," he said. "It is that of the Ministry of Health. If we leave we will be saving lives in other countries and improving our standard of living at the same time."

Wagstaffe added: "I know of one technician who went to America recently who is getting \$12,000 a year. Seniors here get less than \$3,000, rising to about \$3,800 after nine years. That is not good enough, considering the responsibility and skill our work entails."

Britain has about 65 heart-lung machines and at least 60 heart operations are carried out each week.

FROM CANADA

Ancient Remains

Man may have lived in the Canadian north as long as 40,000 years ago, if recently discovered bones and artifacts are properly dated. This would parallel the find near Mexico City of relics of equal age (SN:5/13). Proof of the date would upset present theories, which hold the man reached North America between 12,000 and 15,000 years ago. The most recent discovery was made by paleontologist C. R. Harrington of the National Museum of Canada on the Old Crow River in the Yukon.

He and Dr. W. N. Irving, a museum archaeologist, recovered about 900 pounds of bones of prehistoric animals found among man-made implements.

The Canadian find lends new strength to the theory that man migrated via the Bering Strait to the

North American continent from Asia.

The Yukon bones include mammoth, horse, bison, camel, ground sloth, giant beaver, giant moose, muskox and a type of wolf or dog. Man-made implements found among the bones included a serrated flesher made from the leg bone of an adult caribou, a bone scraper, and something that appears to be a pick made of mammoth bone.

Canadian scientists think that the Old Crow flats in the Yukon may become one of the most important areas for scientific studies. The area is generally considered a great natural laboratory in which to study the record of biological and cultural evolution during the past 40,000 to 50,000 years.

FROM AUSTRALIA



Australian News Bureau

Meanwhile, amateur and professional excavators near Sydney have found a complete sequence of aboriginal remains dating from some 7,000 years ago to modern times.

Many burials, crude stone tools and incised pictograms on the rocks have been disclosed in a natural rock shelter in Royal National Park.

When the aborigines used the shelter—up to the 18th century—their staple diet was shellfish, snapper, parrot fish and wallabies, whose bones were also used to make tools. An occasional stranded whale was exploited.

FROM MEXICO

Smog from Dry Lake

Mexico City authorities are pushing for legislation to control smog by filtering smokestack and automobile exhausts, and are considering recreating an ancient lake, now dry.

"Technicians are already studying the proper filters for cars and chimneys, and these will be manufactured in series," Mayor Alfonso Corona de Rosal says.

The problem is aggravated by heavy dust storms from the dry lakebed of former Lake Texcoco.

"There have been studies to bring in water and recreate the lake for the dust has become a major hazard to eyes, nose and throat during the dry season," the mayor added.

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