

Ninth Down; No Gain

California and Minnesota have joined the list of states whose legislatures this winter have refused to pass anti-evolution bills introduced by Fundamentalists. The Minnesota house committee on education, by a vote of 12 to 5, recommended indefinite postponement of the proposed measure. In California the action of the committee was unanimous. No state legislature so far this year has been willing to join Tennessee and Mississippi in limiting the freedom of teaching in this field, and seven states have anticipated the action of Minnesota and California in declining that doubtful distinction.

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Esperanto Tested in Schools

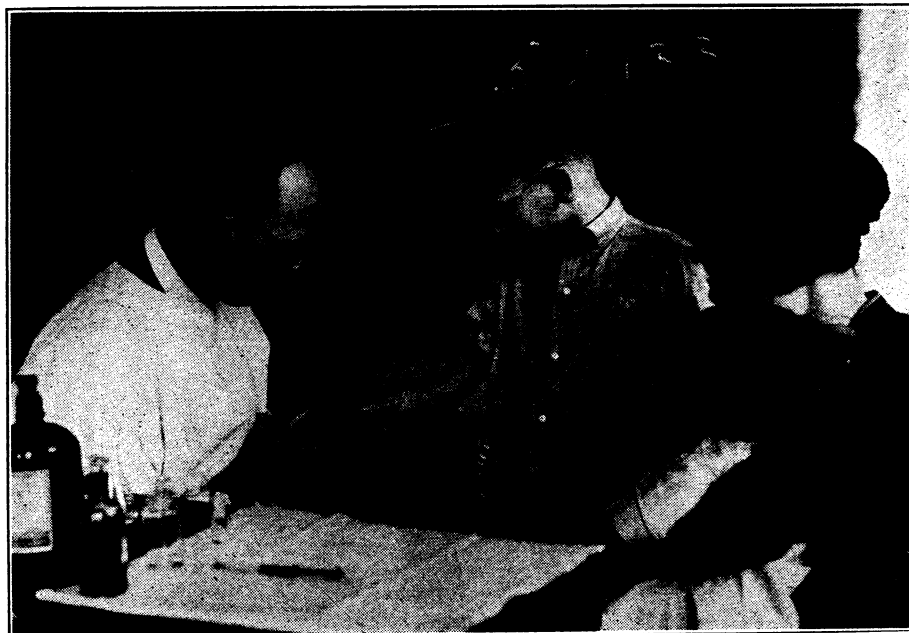
Learning Esperanto or some other simple artificial language is a good introduction to foreign language study for school children, according to Miss Helen S. Easton, of the International Auxiliary Language Association. In a talk before a group of Washington language teachers, Miss Easton pointed out that experiments in teaching Esperanto to school children are being made in New York, and in England, Switzerland, and other European countries. Some high school students have practically no ability to learn Latin, French, or other foreign languages, though their progress in other subjects is normal, Miss Easton declared. If a course in a simple artificial language is given before starting on a real foreign language, such students can be spotted and much time saved and discouragement averted.

Esperanto, the most widely known of the languages invented for international communication, has only sixteen grammatical rules, and there are no exceptions to the rules. Nouns, adjectives, verbs, and other parts of speech are built up from root words by adding suffixes, so that all nouns end in "o," adjectives in "a," and so on. With these rules for construction the students can learn to take a language apart and put it together, and this helps them to understand how real foreign languages are formed, Miss Easton explained.

Another advantage found through recent experiments is that the artificial language awakens the students' interest in words, and their use of their native language tends to improve.

It is estimated that one person in 300 wears a glass eye.

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An expert in the U. S. Public Health Service is about to give these children both the Dick test and the Schick test that will tell whether they are susceptible to scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Childrens' Diseases

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good their promise a way has been opened up for the treatment of measles similar to that now in use to prevent diphtheria and scarlet fever.

When a child comes down with measles in a German family it is a current practice to prevent the disease or to forestall serious complications in younger members of the family by injecting them with the blood from one of their parents. In the densely populated countries of Europe the chances of reaching full-grown manhood or womanhood without contracting measles are very small. It is believed that the periodic subsequent exposures to measles resulting from everyday contacts in a thickly populated community stimulates, during the whole life, production of antibodies in the blood. Consequently the blood of European parents is used as a convenient immunizing agent to prevent this disease or to mitigate its severity in children.

When children are injected early enough, fifty per cent of the cases treated have been found to retain an immunity of several months. In the remaining fifty per cent the disease takes a mild form and confers immunity as lasting as that of a severe case.

To get the best results with this mode of attack on measles the inoculation must take place at an early stage of the game. The German health authorities are endeavoring to teach

this vital point to parents through propaganda distributed to school children, and the method has likewise the sanction of the health section of the League of Nations. Whether or not some such procedure in this country will prove to be another way out of the measles difficulty is yet to be seen.

Mumps and chicken pox are comparatively mild diseases, and because they are relatively benign, will have to wait for the attention of science until the problems presented by the more serious diseases are cleared up. It is thought that the former is caused by a filterable virus that is present during the course of the disease in the saliva. Chicken pox was long confused with small pox, and not until modern times have physicians differentiated clearly between the two.

Whooping cough is still the bad boy among children's diseases. If any philanthropist wants to do a good turn to the boys and girls of the universe he can come across with the where-withal for whooping cough research. Science has thus far been able to do very little about it. The causative germ is generally considered to be a bacillus, but some doctors dispute even this point. Vaccines have been tried and found wanting. Intramuscular injections and occasionally enemas of ether are modern innovations that have been useful in checking severe paroxysms in young sufferers. Radiation with Roentgen rays have been found helpful sometimes. One spe-

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