

# Legislative Season Ends

*Medicine*

A summary prepared by the American Association for Medical Progress.

Despite agitation by opponents of things as they are in matters medical, the state legislative season has closed with the legal status of medicine practically unchanged. Laws in certain states have been strengthened by restatement and by the addition of important clauses. None of the legislative blows made at the cause of medical progress achieved its purpose.

The most noteworthy legislation comes from Virginia, which state has incorporated its whole general body of medical law into one comprehensive act, covering registration of physicians, verification of licenses for practice, defining unprofessional conduct as a basis for revoking or refusing to grant licenses, providing the same high basic educational requirements for the practice of medicine, homeopathy, osteopathy or chiropractic, limiting the administering of drugs by unlicensed persons, and defining the status and rights of the chiropodist. Finally it defines the term "practicing medicine" as applied, and provides punishments in fine and imprisonment for violation of the law. The law also definitely prohibits the sharing of fees between a physician and a surgeon to whom the physician refers a patient.

In New York no less than sixty-seven bills dealing with various phases of medical practice were introduced in the Legislature. Only a few were ever reported out of committee. Those which did pass were largely in the nature of minor amendments and amplifications of existing regulations. The anti-vivisection bill in behalf of dogs, and the anti-vaccination bill both died in committee.

The Kentucky State Medical Board

## Animal Experimentation— *Continued*

these diseases have been found and made safe and effective; and it is by experiments upon animals that the diseases for which specific remedies have not been found, will finally be conquered in the future.

*Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928*

Automobiles in New York City wreck \$18,000 worth of lamp posts each year, and 60 per cent. of these accidents are due to intoxicated drivers.

has again emerged unscathed from a particularly virulent legislative attack on its whole scope and organization. The "Ripper Bill", as it is known in the Blue Grass State, has appeared perennially for a long time. Adherents of the Board claim that this attack is purely political, and in general the Board of Health has had the backing of the medical profession and of the progressive element of the state.

In Washington, the Parker Bill, granting in general additional research facilities for the Public Health Service, passed but was vetoed.

Bills empowering the Smithsonian Institution to make recommendations for suitable recognition of research and other workers who risk life or health in the public service, and for granting pensions to the survivors of the yellow fever experiments, were reported out of the House committees before Congress adjourned. They will come up next winter.

*Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928*

## Septic Sore Throat

*Medicine*

Septic sore throat, the disease that is responsible for the present large loss of life in the small Massachusetts village of Lee, is caused by a micro-organism very similar to the one causing scarlet fever. Both are members of the streptococcus family. They can only be differentiated by a complicated test which must be carried out on a human subject, officials of the U. S. Hygienic Laboratory said recently.

The present epidemic is by no means the first of the kind. Septic sore throat has occurred as an epidemic in this country and England since 1875. Generally the milk supply was the agent that spread the disease. In 1911 over a thousand cases with 38 deaths were reported in Boston, while Chicago, in the same year, had 10,000 cases within a few weeks. Baltimore had 3,000 cases with 30 deaths in 1912.

The milk becomes infected through the humans who handle it, and not through the cow, as in the case of tuberculosis. Cows may become infected with the organism, but it does not cause disease in them and such infection of the animal, as well as the contamination of the milk, is due to contact with infected humans, for this organism is not native to cows.

*Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928*

## Magnetism and Static

*Physics*

When your radio crackles, squeals, moans, or stubbornly remains silent despite your coaxing, does the earth's magnetism have anything to do with such antics? That is what scientists of the Coast and Geodetic Survey have been trying to find out. F. P. Ulrich, magnetic observer of the Survey, stationed at Sitka, Alaska, summarizes the results of five years' observations by saying in a recent report: "In general, the condition of the earth's magnetic field is no index of the quality of radio reception." Thus the fact seems to be established that the earth's baffling magnetic forces are not to blame when your radio goes on a temperamental rampage.

Mr. Ulrich observed that the aurora borealis, or northern light, which is a manifestation of the earth's magnetism, occurs in greatest brilliancy on magnetically disturbed days. The aurora causes difficulties in cable transmission, he says, but "observations seem to indicate that good radio reception is very much more apt to occur than poor reception during a bright or faint aurora." That absolves the aurora, magnetism's magnificent advertisement, from suspicion of being the monkeywrench in radio's machinery.

In an effort to unravel the greatest of all scientific mysteries—the earth's magnetism—scientists have been making methodical, monotonous, deadly dull routine observations for years. They record the daily and hourly variations in the earth's magnetic forces at widely scattered observatories from Samoa to Honolulu and Alaska. An effort is also made to connect these records with other phenomena such as earthquakes, sun spots, and the aurora, and with radio reception and telegraphic and cable disturbances. It is hoped in this way to ferret out Nature's most profound secret—the secret of those magnetic forces which, up to now, have defied scientific analysis.

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Among the world's needed inventions listed by British patentees are a collapsible umbrella to fit into a pocket; an unpuncturable pneumatic tire; rubberized fabric for heels, toes and soles of hosiery, and a clear name plate for streets that can be easily read by night or day.