

at their rear end. The wounds are kept covered with a bit of wire gauze, the whole arrangement looking somewhat like a cage.

The greater success obtained with children in this treatment was largely due to the better cooperation of the children, Dr. Baer thought. Adults are more squeamish than children, and for this reason, or because of some pain attendant on the first day or two of the treatment, often would not allow the maggots to be kept on the wound long enough to be effective.

The success of the treatment depends on the maggots staying in the wounds, but sometimes they get up around the edges. They cannot stand light, however, so Dr. Baer gave each of his little patients at the Children's Hospital School a flashlight, and taught them to chase the maggots down into the wound by turning the flash on them. The children thought it great sport, he reported.

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Science News Letter, August 22, 1931

PHYSICS

Molecules From Caesar's Last Gasp Still Being Inhaled

THE NEXT TIME you breathe you will probably inhale a dozen molecules of air that left Caesar's lungs 2000 years ago with his dying gasp, "Et tu, Brute?"

This is one of the striking illustrations used by Dr. A. H. Compton, Nobel prize physicist, in a radio talk given over a nation-wide network of the Columbia Broadcasting System and sponsored by Science Service.

Dr. Compton, who is professor of physics at the University of Chicago, wanted to emphasize the fact that atoms are small, so small, he said, that in a little thimble filled with helium gas at atmospheric pressure the number of atoms is about "one with nineteen ciphers after it." In spite of the fact that in the intervening milleniums the air from Caesar's last breath has been blown around the world in ocean storms, washed with rains, warmed by sunshine and dispersed to the ends of the earth, Dr. Compton told his hearers the chances are there was still a small fraction of these molecules in each room where they were listening to the radio.

"Perhaps the best way to find out how something is made is to look at it," Dr. Compton said. "If it is like a watch we can hold it in our hands. This is comparatively easy. If it is the cell structure of a muscle that we wish to examine, we put it under a microscope. By using ultraviolet light of a wave length shorter than ordinary light, we can photograph such things as typhoid bacilli with increased sharpness. But atoms are too small even for this.

"Now X-rays have a wave length only

a ten thousandth that of light, and if we could use them in a microscope it would be possible for us to observe even the tiny atoms. Unfortunately we cannot make lenses that will refract X-rays, and if we could our eyes are not sensitive to X-rays. So it would seem that we should never be able to see an atom directly."

Although scientists have not been able to look at an atom, it was explained, by round about methods they have been able to get the same information concerning this tiny particle of matter as if they could see it directly

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platform by means of a reel, as described above, movable to any height required to suit the grain, and the platform to hold the grain until a sufficient quantity shall have been collected for a sheaf, more or less. Likewise the mode of changing the machine for cutting either high or low, as described above; also the method of dividing and keeping separate the grain to be cut from that to be left standing, and the method of attaching the tongue, when behind, to the breast of the horse, to enable him to guide the machine with accuracy.

In testimony that the above is a true and correct description of the use and construction of my machine as invented by me I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of June, 1834.

CYRUS H. McCORMICK.

Witnesses:

HENRY STONE, ROBT. CLARK.

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GREAT SPORT

Is what children think of the idea of using a flashlight to chase maggots down into the wound.

MATHEMATICS

Ruler-Compass Angle Trisection Impossible

TRISECTING the angle with ruler and compass alone is just as impossible today as it was in the days when the ancient Greek mathematicians worried over the problem centuries ago, mathematicians have commented in connection with recent reports that this problem had been solved.

A simple exercise in the theories of numbers which is worked by juniors and seniors in college mathematics courses demonstrates the impossibility of trisecting angles in general without the use of complex curves. There are a few special angles that can be trisected by use of the straight line and circle alone. When claims are made that the angle has been trisected by plane geometry, it turns out that one of these special angles has been used or there is some mistake in the work.

During the centuries many thousands of attempts have been made to solve the trisection problem.

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