There were medical specialists, even in the Old Kingdom. Physicians of the palace included an eye specialist, a stomach and bowel specialist, and a palace dentist.

The oldest immortality texts in the world are in Egypt, in pyramids of 2600 B.C., though some of the material is much older, going back to 4000 B.C. as shown by allusions in the text.

Dr. Duncan cited the oldest known will, written by an Egyptian pharaoh Amenemhat IV, 1800 B.C., and bequeathing his property in surprisingly "modern" legal style.

Science News Letter, January 6, 1934

GEOLOGY

Alaskan Glacier Advances While Others Retreat

THE ONLY known case of an Alaskan glacier advancing was called to the attention of the Geological Society of America by Dr. Chester K. Wentworth and Louis L. Ray of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

During the past fifteen or twenty years, Dr. Wentworth said, Alaskan glaciers generally have been melting back faster than they have been flowing forward. The net loss has been as much as 170 feet in some glaciers, as little as 20 feet in others. But the Taku glacier alone has been in rapid forward movement. It has advanced 7,600 feet since 1909.

The cause of this anomalous advance is a mystery. Dr. Wentworth suggested the possibility of an earthquake's having caused the dumping of a huge quantity of snow on the glacier, perhaps in 1899 or at some time since.

Science News Letter, January 6, 1934

▼ RADIO ▲

THE MYSTERY OF THE OCEAN

an address by

Dr. Paul S. Galtsoff

Of the Bureau of Fisheries, U. S. Department of Commerce

Wednesday, January 10, at 4:30 p. m., Eastern Standard Time, over Stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Each week a prominent scientist speaks over the Columbia System under the auspices of Science Service.

MEDICINE

Seek to Make Practical Use Of Tuberculosis Discoveries

Carriers of Dysentery Parasites Found to Be Numerous; Familiar Coal Tar Dyes Combat Skin Infections Effectively

SIGNIFICANT differences between the germs that cause tuberculosis in humans and those responsible for the disease in other animals have been discovered, and a corps of research workers are hard at work upon the difficult task of attempting to translate these research findings into methods of preventions and cure that doctors can use, Dr. William Charles White, Chairman of the National Tuberculosis Association's Committee on Research, revealed to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The human tubercle bacillus has within itself one substance, a fatty acid, that occurs in none of the other tubercle germs, Dr. R. J. Anderson, of Yale, has discovered. The chemical substance is able to produce the tubercle growths characteristic of the disease without the presence of the bacilli themselves. So far, Dr. Anderson's studies have been confined to only one strain of the kind of bacilli occurring in human beings, but the research is being rushed to include all the human strains.

Another promising lead to the possible conquest of the white plague is the fact that the germs that cause the disease have much greater difficulty getting along without oxygen than the germ strains that are relatively harmless. Again this peculiarity has not been practically applied.

Preparations are being made to study the life, loves and experiences of a single individual tubercle bacillus, Dr. White explained. Heretofore only large colonies or "herds" of the germs have been observed because of the difficulty of singling out individuals.

One Out of Three

One out of three persons of a typical college group has within his body an ameba parasite similar to the sort that caused the amebic dysentery epidemic in Chicago last summer that resulted in the death of "Texas" Guinan and several others, Drs. D. H. Wenrich, R. M. Stabler and J. H. Arnett, of the University of Pennsylvania, reported.

Although many of those carrying these minute animal parasites are not ill in any way, they are carriers who, through carelessness, may spread the disease to others and thus menace the community. Very careful diagnostic work is often necessary to locate these potentially dangerous carriers, the Pennsylvania scientists said.

Green Dye For Skin

Two familiar green aniline dyes made from coal tar are effective in combating and subduing some of the common skin infections that are due to fungi, Dr. A. McCrea, of Parke, Davis and Company, Detroit, reported. These dyes, known as malachite green and brilliant green, were found to be outstanding in killing action, far surpassing all others tested, including aniline violet, fuchsin basic and gentian violet.

Science News Letter, January 6, 1934

PHYSIOLOGY

Too Easy Living Injures Insulin-Producing Gland

EASY living is hard on parts of the pancreas that produce insulin; abstemiousness tends to repair the damage.

This has been shown in the case of fish by Dr. Walter N. Hess of Hamilton College, who described his experiments before the American Society of Zoologists. Dr. Hess used rainbow trout as his subjects. Some of them he overfed, others he put on a diet too high in fat-forming foods, and still others he fed normally but kept under-exercised.

In all cases, the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas, which are the insulin-producing areas, diminished in number and degenerated in condition. However, Dr. Hess put similarly pampered trout on a diet low in fat-producing materials and after a while the damaged tissue showed considerable regeneration.

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