

the idea of finding out whether cosmic rays were entirely the product of thunderstorms, as one student of the subject had claimed. Dr. Schonland is convinced that this is not the case; nevertheless, there are enough lightning-

caused penetrating radiations to make it necessary for researchers on cosmic rays to take them into account, if their figures are not to be falsified by thunderstorms.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1934

PUBLIC HEALTH

Dean of American Medicine Defined "New Public Health"

Dr. Welch, Before His Death, Summarized for Posterity Lessons of Fight for Better Health Which He Led

Before his death in his 85th year on April 30, Dr. Welch recorded phonographically at the request of Science Service an evaluation of the great crusade for a healthier nation, a campaign that he led so effectively. His words have added meaning as the nation mourns him.

By DR. WILLIAM H. WELCH

WE OWE primarily to the anti-tuberculosis crusade the development of "the new public health," characterized especially by efforts to educate the people in matters of public and personal hygiene. . . .

It is evident that a crusade directed in the first instance against a single disease, without losing sight of its immediate goal, has assumed in recent years the proportions of a general health movement and this not merely on the negative or preventive side, but even more on the positive side of improvement of the health and increase of the vitality of the whole community.

These newer directions of public and individual health, started by the anti-tuberculosis campaign, have been reinforced and greatly expanded by similar popular movements organized to promote maternity, infant and child hygiene, social hygiene, mental hygiene, the control of cancer, the prevention and relief of heart disease, and the end of like beneficent movements is not yet in sight.

Among the great lessons taught by these recent health movements is the necessity of securing by popular education the cooperation of all the forces of society, both governmental and voluntary, in support of efforts of health departments and of the medical profession to prevent disease and to improve health.

See Front Cover

Another lesson is that the attack upon one disease may have incidental and often unexpected benefits not to be measured solely by lessening the incidence of the disease which is the immediate object of attack.

Still another lesson is that existing social, industrial and economic conditions set limits to what is at present attainable in the field of disease prevention.

The most important lesson of all is that success is dependent upon accurate knowledge concerning the causes and mode of spread of preventable diseases, and that hope of the future lies in the increases of useful knowledge by the methods of experimental science.

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MEDICINE

Vaccination Against Parrot Fever

THE heroic sacrifices of life and health made by workers in medical laboratories throughout the world have aroused universal sympathy and admiration. News that hazards faced daily by these self-sacrificing men and women are gradually being lessened is particularly heartening.

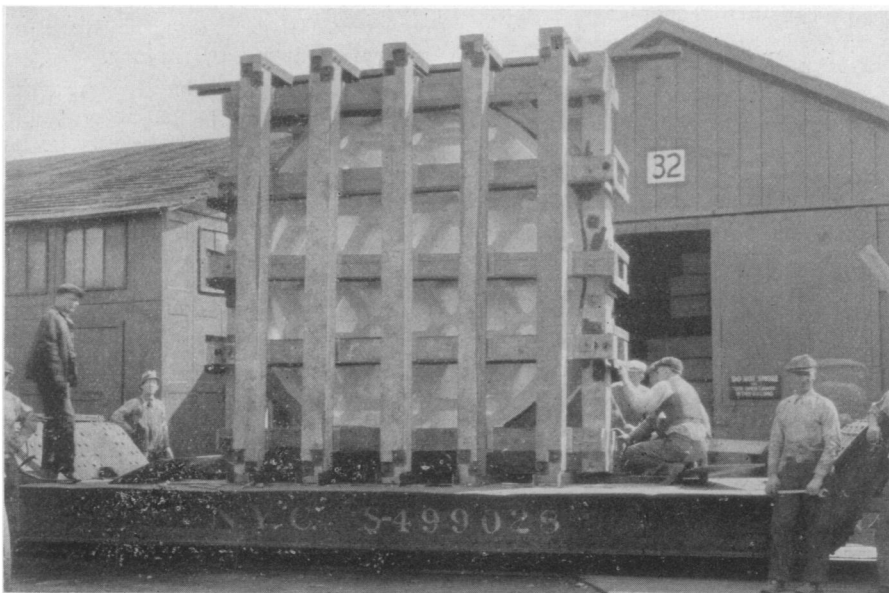
The latest achievement is protective vaccination against psittacosis or parrot fever, announced by Dr. Thomas M. Rivers of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in New York City.

Seven laboratory workers have already been vaccinated. Five or six doses of live virus varying in strength from 10,000 to 10 million times the dose that will kill a mouse were injected into their muscles in order to establish in these workers a resistance to the dangerous organism which causes the disease.

Parrot fever has been particularly hard on laboratory workers who promptly met the challenge of this new and mysterious malady when it broke out all over the world in 1929, following the distribution of diseased parrots from Argentina and Brazil in that year.

Eleven cases developed at the U. S. Public Health Service's National Institute of Health in Washington.

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CORRECTOR OF TELESCOPES

The 120-inch disc, the largest to reach this stage of completion, is safely designed, cast, annealed, tested, and shipped to the California Institute of Technology where it will be ground to a plane for testing the 200-inch mirror. It was cast at the Corning Glass Works, preparatory to pouring the glass for the great 200-inch mirror.