

and "in all probability with engines operating on 90-octane and 100-octane gasolines."

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Secret Room in Palace Baffles Archaeologists

PAGE Sherlock Holmes! British archaeologists digging out the ruins of a 3,700-year-old palace in Syria, have encountered a mystery room, suggesting the secret, hideaway chambers of whodunit fiction. And to date, the archaeologists have not solved the mystery.

Discoverer of the baffling scene is Sir Leonard Woolley, famous for his explorations at Ur of the Chaldees, and more recently director of British Museum excavations in North Syria.

Exploring a royal palace buried 25 feet under the soil at Atchana, ancient Alalakh, Sir Leonard found a flight of stairs leading to a basement level and barred at the foot by a low stone door. The door, cracked and broken, still could be turned on its hinges. Behind it lay enough evidence to conjure up thoughts of strange macabre doings in palace life of an ancient, unknown king.

Seen now, only the most enduring remnants of the secret are visible. Outstanding object is an oblong wooden box, collapsed, in which were packed four skeletons. In a corner of the room is a heap of ashes from a wood fire, and with it, bones of animals and some stone and clay vases. The designed secrecy of the barred room is emphasized by surrounding rooms, all for household routine.

Alalakh, scene of this palace mystery, is otherwise proving very enlightening to archaeological science. From its buried palaces, temples, statues, and pottery, seven stages of ancient history are coming to light, including much information about the little-known Hittite era. Alalakh in Syria was no provincial place. It had contact with civilizations of Egypt, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, Cyprus and Crete.

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● RADIO ●

Dr. Albert F. Blakeslee, director of the department of genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington and newly elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will tell why people behave differently as guest scientist on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Thursday, February 1, 4:15 p.m., EST, 3:15 CST, 2:15 MST, 1:15 PST.

Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Thursday.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Mayo Clinic Authority Urges Speed in Better Medical Care

Approaching Presidential Election Brings Danger That Problem Will Become a Political Football

A WARNING that we must now make haste in working out plans for better medical care distribution, to avoid having the problem become a political football, is issued by Dr. Hugh Cabot, of the Mayo Clinic, in his book, *The Patient's Dilemma* (Reynal and Hitchcock).

Dr. Cabot incidentally criticizes the American Medical Association for failing, in its handling of economic, social and political problems relating to medicine, to maintain its high standards and the judicious and judicial qualities which have characterized its handling of scientific problems. But Dr. Cabot's chief concern is in solving the patient's dilemma of being unable to find or to pay for good medical care.

The approaching presidential election makes speed essential, Dr. Cabot points out, if the problem of getting medical care to all the people is to be solved by sound plans.

With large bodies of people convinced and certain to state clearly their convictions that some change in medical care distribution is overdue, "the time appears to me," Dr. Cabot says, "to be short during which good-tempered discussion can hold the floor."

"Once the issue is joined between the political parties, action—possibly hasty—may well result," he warns.

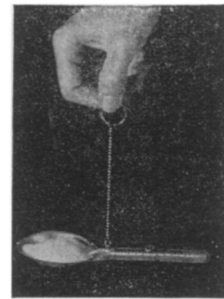
No formula for solving the problem exists, Dr. Cabot says. Disagreeing with proponents of compulsory health insurance, he states that while there is "much foreign experience to guide our footsteps, there is no foreign formula which can be applied—even in its general principles."

"The entrance of government into the distribution of medical care," he continues, "must have as its first step a secure foundation in the provision of a good personnel, good standards, and expert supervision."

Dr. Cabot seems to favor solving the problem largely at the state level. He says there is much to be gained by regarding the states "as a series of experimental laboratories." Local initiative, local financing with state grants-in-aid to communities needing it, a single state administra-

tive channel and state maintenance of standards are the principles he suggests for plans for medical care under government auspices.

Establishment and maintenance of fundamental standards, however, can only be



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CAMBRIDGE LABORATORIES
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done by the federal government, in his opinion. The federal government should also be responsible for expert determination of the relative needs of various portions of the country, he suggests, and he favors following the "well-established principle that the more prosperous portions of the country should give aid and assistance to their less prosperous neighbors."

A federal department of health with a Secretary of Health in the Cabinet, often proposed, is viewed with some alarm by Dr. Cabot. While he favors a single

agency to administer all problems in the field of education, research and medical care in which the federal government is involved, he thinks these problems should be combined under the U. S. Public Health Service which in turn should be under some major department of government. This will insure the supremely important permanency of tenure, detachment of view and freedom from political influence which might be threatened by setting up a Department of Health with a Secretary in the Cabinet.

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stocked and were willing to sell bottled remedies, especially when asked for them by name. About half of those who sold remedies urged the inquirer to see a doctor. Only 7 percent of the entire number refused to diagnose or sell remedies.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Service Warns Venereal Disease Quackery

Men and Women Who Are Infected or Fear They Are Found To Be Swindled Out of Tens of Millions Yearly

MEN and women who have, or think they have, syphilis and gonorrhea are today being exploited to the tune of tens of millions of dollars annually, the U. S. Public Health Service charges on the basis of a new survey of drug store "back counter prescribing" and other aspects of venereal disease quackery.

Instead of going to reputable physicians or clinics, these unfortunate men and women are going to quacks such as "men's specialists," and herbalists or drug stores for diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease. They are paying, the federal health service finds, from \$1 to \$3 for a bottle containing a few cents' worth of such substances as boric acid and glycerin which cannot help them if they have syphilis or gonorrhea, and in some cases they may be paying for medicine for a disease they do not even have.

The increase in venereal disease quack-

ery in recent years today constitutes "one of the major obstacles to the public health control of syphilis and gonorrhea," federal health officials stated in a nationwide broadcast.

Quack advertising has apparently decreased in volume, but the sales curve for "patent remedies" has been rising during the past six or eight years, the latest survey indicates. This survey was made by the American Social Hygiene Association in cooperation with the U. S. Public Health Service.

Personal interviews by trained investigators posing as "friends" of presumably infected persons were carried on in 1,151 drug stores in 35 cities in 26 states. Sixty-two percent of the drug stores visited diagnosed the disease and offered to sell remedies for alleged syphilis or gonorrhea, especially the latter. Thirty-one percent did not attempt to diagnose, but

OCEANOGRAPHY

War Hampers Ice Patrol Through Radio Silence

WAR has cast a new shadow of danger over ships plying North Atlantic steamer lanes, by hampering the work of the International Ice Patrol. This patrol, which usually begins in late March, is conducted by special U. S. vessels but is internationally sponsored, and it depends for full efficiency on radio reports from merchant ships sighting icebergs. Now, to avoid being located by Nazi submarines, all British and French vessels, and many neutral ships as well, maintain complete radio silence.

A statement in the *Hydrographic Bulletin* issued by the U. S. Navy Department takes cognizance of this situation, and requests that "In the interests of safety to shipping in general, the Hydrographic Office would appreciate receiving reports of ice sighted by such ships, immediately upon arrival in port."

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AERONAUTICS

Canada To Fit New Skis To Military Aircraft

CANADA is getting ready to fit skis of a new type to its high-speed military aircraft. Tests have been underway at Sioux Lookout, Ontario, where winter temperatures are low and snow conditions suitable. The new airplane skis have low sliding resistance, little tendency to freeze to the surface and high resistance to wear.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Illness, Poverty Linked In Country as in City

POOOR health and poverty go together in the country as well as in cities. This long-suspected situation has just been confirmed by U. S. Public Health Statistician Harold F. Dorn. Scanning death reports from Ohio's agricultural regions, he found the standardized death rate in the poor economic areas 10% greater than in good economic areas.

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