

of them, in one part or another of the country east of the Great Plains area. Some of these broods are large and widely distributed, as is the case this year; others are few and scattered, as will be the case in 1941, 1942 and 1943.

The periodical cicada is an insect with a body about the size of the end joint of your little finger, and large, thin, transparent, prominently-veined wings. Near the tip of each wing is a brilliantly orange-colored marking shaped like the

letter W, which local prophets always interpret as a sure sign of war. This year's brood come as rather tardy prophets.

Cicadas can neither sting nor bite, so that it is perfectly safe to catch and handle them. The male insects (which are the only ones that sing) will even oblige with a solo as you hold them: you can see the little tympani in the sides of their bodies vibrating rapidly.

Science News Letter, June 15, 1940

or spinal cord, or both. The patients usually become bedridden through paralysis of the legs, and there are other distressing symptoms, including mental changes.

The life-long dietary habits of 35 patients with this incurable disease showed an outstandingly low consumption of "vitamin containing carbohydrates, visible fat and, especially, dairy fat," the New York scientists found. Only four of the 35 patients had been eating thoroughly adequate diets for a long time.

All the patients except six in an advanced stage of the disease did well when their diets were corrected. Underweight persons did much less well than patients who had normal or above normal weights.

Many attacks of the disease were associated with or preceded by acute weight loss, prolonged periods of overwork, emotional strain, or germ diseases. These conditions, it was pointed out, increase the need for vitamins and calories and may have induced a nutritional deficiency responsible for the multiple sclerosis attacks.

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Nickel-silver is an alloy of nickel, copper, and zinc.

MEDICINE

Dilatation of Carotid Artery Is Blamed for Migraine

Headache Caused by Stretching of Branches of Artery At Side of Head; Eye Symptoms from Constriction

STRETCHING and dilatation of branches of the external carotid artery are to blame for migraine headaches. Experiments showing this were reported by Dr. H. G. Wolff, Dr. A. M. Cahan and Dr. G. A. Schumacher, of New York, at the meeting of the American Neurological Association in Rye, N. Y.

The experiments were made on five patients in the midst of severe bouts of migraine. The cerebrospinal fluid in these patients was increased to a point great enough to abolish headaches caused by the chemical histamine. This pressure, however, did not diminish the intensity of the migraine headaches. From this the physicians concluded that the headache does not arise primarily from stretching and dilatation of brain arteries, as previously believed, but from the stretching and dilatation of the branches of the carotid, the big artery running up the side of the head.

The pre-headache visual disturbances, on the other hand, result, the New York physicians found from other experiments, from constriction of blood vessels which is succeeded by the dilatation and headache.

Science News Letter, June 15, 1940

Diet May Cause Sclerosis

HOPE for a successful attack on hitherto incurable multiple sclerosis appears in the discovery that the disease is linked with poor diet and that patients improve on a good diet.

This discovery was announced by Dr.

Richard M. Brickner and Dr. Norman Q. Brill, of New York. Miss Frances H. Naylor and Miss Kathryn Montgomery, dietitians, assisted in the studies.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease of hardening of sporadic patches of the brain

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