

ever, each nurse receives last-minute hardening and additional training at the staging area while awaiting her sailing date.

*Science News Letter, June 19, 1943*

## GEOGRAPHY

## Japanese Place Names May Become Familiar Soon

► IF AMERICAN armed forces move southward on Japan from the Aleutians, they may follow the string of islands called the Kuriles, stretching from the Russian Kamchatka peninsula to Japan proper. They are Japanese property, ceded to Japan by Russia in 1875.

The "mainland" islands are at the southern end of the string. Paramoshiri, the northernmost Kurile island of importance, is only a few miles from the extreme southern tip of Kamchatka. Kumashiri is only eight miles from Hokkaido, the second largest of the Japanese main islands. Honshu is the home of Tokyo.

The name of Honshu may be pronounced about as one pleases. One American authority says it is Hon-shú. Another equally reliable authority says it is Hón-shoo. Still another authority says neither syllable is accented; both are equally stressed.

Honshu is sometimes called Hondo, pronounced Hon'-do generally in America, but Hon'-do' by the Japanese. Japanese do not accent any particular syllable in most words. One or more consonants with the following vowel constitutes a syllable in general. Each syllable is pronounced separately; each is of equal importance. Thus Paramoshiri is Pa-ra-mo-shi-ri.

The Kuriles are called Chishima by the Japanese, which means "the myriad islands." It would be a repetition of the word islands to call them the Chishima islands. Kurile, or Kuril, is the Russian name and pronounced as in English with the accent on the first syllable Kú-ril. Chishima is a three-syllable word with the accent on the first syllable when pronounced American style: Chí-she-mah. The "Chi" is like the first three letters in Chicago.

Hokkaido is pronounced American style, Hok-kéi-do. Southwest of Honshu and close to it, are two important islands of the main group, Shikoku and Kyushu, peopled by more than 11,000,000 persons. The first is Shi-kó-ku, the second, Ku-shú, with the first "u" as in "cur" and the second as in "rule".

In pronouncing Japanese names, a good general rule is: when in doubt about the accent, omit it; give each

syllable equal stress, and drag the word out monotonously.

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## MEDICINE

## Salvaged Blood Cells

Red cells, by-product of the production of blood plasma, can be used in the treatment of anemia by transfusion. Economic factor important.

► SUCCESSFUL use of red blood cells, salvaged from blood plasma production, for the treatment of anemia is reported by Dr. Howard L. Alt, of Northwestern University Medical School (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 12).

After a severe hemorrhage, Dr. Alt points out, ordinarily it takes six weeks or longer for the patient to recover from the anemia following the loss of blood. But by giving daily transfusions of red cells alone from a quart of blood, recovery from the anemia can be speeded up to a period of a few days.

"If cells could be made available to the armed forces," Dr. Alt states, "it would materially hasten the rehabilitation of wounded men who have suffered from hemorrhage."

The chief advantage of transfusions with red cells in salt solution over whole blood is the economic factor. The same quart of blood can be used to help two patients by giving the plasma to one who needs it, say, for shock, and the red cells to another who needs them for anemia. Dr. Alt believes that if red cells become available at a low cost, which is likely to happen if they are used more commonly, they may be used more often to treat anemia than whole blood is at present.

One patient he reported, who had a progressive, refractory anemia complicating chronic leukemia, was kept going for over a year with monthly red cell transfusions. During this period the patient received the red cells from about 26 quarts of blood.

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## GEOLOGY-ENGINEERING

## Oil Left Underground

Nearly two-thirds is not recovered by ordinary methods, director of production for Petroleum Administration for War estimates. A challenge to engineers.

► NEARLY two-thirds of the nation's oil is left underground by ordinary methods of recovery, representing an estimated 70 billion barrel reserve which challenges the ingenuity of petroleum engineers, D. R. Knowlton, director of production for the Petroleum Administration for War, declares in a report to the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

"The most economical and consequently the best source of additional oil for our war program, aside from exploratory drilling, lies in secondary recovery," he maintains. "It is the engineers' problem to get as much of that oil as economically as possible."

At least three billion barrels of the residue left after the easily obtainable oil is pumped can be recovered even by present

methods, Mr. Knowlton believes, at present or slightly increased price.

Efforts to find new fields at a cost of millions of dollars per year have met with only moderate success. Unless our record of discoveries is substantially better during the next few years than it has been during the last few, our domestically produced oil will be insufficient to meet our demands, Mr. Knowlton warns.

New knowledge about how to keep up pressure in oil reservoirs as pumping continues and how to control rate of flow enables engineers to recover much of the so-called secondary oil while still producing the primary oil. Mr. Knowlton urges that new research projects be undertaken to study these methods under varying reservoir conditions.

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