

mately 9:58 in the morning and end at 10:59 (EWT); in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, La., 8:51 to 9:34 (CWT); in Austin, Texas, 8:37 to 9:36 (CWT);

in Santa Fe, N. M., the sun rises partially eclipsed, the eclipse ending at 8:26, Mountain War Time.

*Science News Letter, January 22, 1944*

MEDICINE

## Sulfa Drugs Save Sailors

Instead of having makeshift appendectomies performed on board ship, surgeons advise special hold-over treatment until professional aid is available.

► A NEW ROLE for the sulfa drugs, that of saving sailors from appendicitis death or the hazards of makeshift operations for appendicitis, appears in a report by two U. S. Navy medical officers, Comdr. William L. Berkley and Lieut. Comdr. Harry C. Watkins. (*U. S. Naval Medical Bulletin*, January)

The public may be thrilled by stories of enlisted personnel performing appendectomies on shipmates at sea when no medical aid is available. Physicians and surgeons both in and out of the Navy, however, deplore such action.

"We believe more lives will be lost through surgery performed by unqualified persons than would be lost through a policy of delay of surgery, using proper treatment during the delay period," Lieut. Comdr. F. Glenn Irwin and Lieut. Comdr. Gaines L. Coates, declare in another report on appendicitis in the same issue of the *Naval Medical Bulletin*.

Even when a medical officer is aboard the vessel to perform the operation, the patient's welfare may be jeopardized by poor or deficient equipment, unfavorable weather conditions, unskilled assistants to the surgeon, and postoperative hazards due to enemy action, it is pointed out.

The postoperative complications seen in base hospitals as a result of appendectomies done at sea show how hazardous the ordinarily simple appendicitis operation may be under unfavorable conditions.

Sulfa drugs may help, Commander Berkley and Commander Watkins believe, by bringing the patient safely through the delay period until he can have his operation under good conditions. They give credit to sulfa drug treatment for just this in a small number of cases in which they tried it.

Sulfa drugs are also listed as part of the medical treatment advised by Commander Irwin and Commander Coates when operation must be delayed. They

report 400 consecutive operations without a single death in patients admitted to their hospital from shore stations and ships.

*Science News Letter, January 22, 1944*

MEDICINE-PHYSIOLOGY

## "Motor Unfitness" Found Prevalent in College Men

► AN "APPALLING" number of young men entering college suffer from "motor unfitness," tests at the University of Illinois show. The tests and their results are reported by Dr. Thomas K. Cureton, of the University's School

of Physical Education, in the *Journal, American Medical Association*.

Motor fitness, he says, means "capacity to run, jump, dodge, fall, climb, swim, ride, lift and carry loads and endure long hours of continuous work." Vitally necessary to the soldier, motor fitness is also needed by civilians for their safety and health, Dr. Cureton points out.

Many people, he says, slip on rugs, in the shower or pool or when dismounting from moving vehicles and suffer serious accidents because they lack kinesthetic sense and cannot tell when they are off balance and how to recover quickly.

Protected soft lives, dependence on motor vehicles, inefficient physical education, and lack of hard physical work are blamed by Dr. Cureton for the large number of men who enter college with motor unfitness.

Tests developed at the University of Illinois to rate students on motor fitness include ability to balance on one foot or toe for 10 seconds; ability to do 20 leg lifts and 20 situps in succession; ability to lift and set down once a person one's own weight; ability to do a standing broad jump of seven feet;



**CUT BY EROSION**—Accelerated wearing away leaves deep gullies such as this one which dwarfs the man at the right. Some of these gullies are as much as 800 feet deep. This photograph, taken in Kansu, China, was made by Dr. W. C. Lowdermilk, as were the beautiful pictures of China shown on these pages and of the yak on the cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.