

and send him on his way while you go on to care for the next victim, and the next, and the next.

You may notice the symptoms of on-coming shock as you have been trained to do, but whether you have the patient lie down and try to keep him warm, to prevent shock, or whether you send him on to a safer area or to his home will depend on the situation with regard to the likelihood of further damage and injury.

You do not need to worry or even think about the radiation effects. Up to the present, there is nothing in the way of first aid treatment that will overcome the effects of a heavy dose of radiation. All the things that can be done, including the new methods now being tested in laboratories, for helping toward the possible recovery of patients who got heavy doses of radiation, will have to be done by doctors and nurses. Your role as a first aider will be to keep the surviving victims from bleeding to death or getting further fatal injuries before the doctors and nurses have a chance to try to treat the radiation effects.

Running Away Useless

Remember this about the radiation from an atom bomb: It is all over in a minute or so. About 99% of the radiation produced comes out in the first fraction of a second after the bomb goes off. By the time you have picked yourself up, realized what has happened and pulled yourself together and begun to think about using your first aid training to help those around you, the worst is over. You will gain nothing by running away. You can safely stay and help those who need help.

Next in the geography of atom bomb first aid are the areas between two and four miles out from the center where the bomb was dropped. Here the damage will be moderate to slight. Most buildings will be standing, there will not be much fire danger, but there may be many casualties.

Place for Top First-Aid

About 20% or 25% of the people in these two outer areas of a mile each will be killed. Many others will have severe injuries. There may be bad leg cuts that are bleeding profusely. Quick, proper treatment can save many lives here. And this is the area where topnotch first aid can and should be given.

You will have time to do it because there will not be so many injured in your immediate vicinity, and you will have splints and other equipment to use. But even though you may see only two or three or five badly injured persons, the total number will be large because the area is circular. So the total number of trained first aiders must be large if people in this area are to be saved.

You will not, of course, stop to consult a map to see which area you are in after an atom bomb burst. Nor will you be able

to tell the exact point where the bomb fell. But if most of the buildings are down and you see fire, you are near the central area.

If only a few buildings are down, and those mostly the small brick structures, you are probably out in the moderate to light damage areas. The one-, two-, three-, and four-mile circles may each be larger, depending on the power of the atom bomb dropped.

Science News Letter, September 30, 1950

BOTANY

Explorers to Visit South American "Lost World"

➤ AN EXPEDITION to the "lost world" of South America, one of the world's least explored areas, is being organized by the New York Botanical Garden and its Venezuelan associates to study some of science's most interesting plants.

Penetrating into the most remote part of Venezuela where high sandstone mountains create an isolated region, three American botanists and their Venezuelan colleagues will be gone about half a year. Organized by Dr. William J. Robbins, director of the New York Botanical Garden, the expedition party will consist of Bassett Maguire, curator, John Wurdack and Richard Cowan, botanical assistants.

Explorations will be concentrated in the Orinoco headwaters and they will visit particularly Haumacari and Yacapana, two of the sandstone plateaus. Neither has been explored botanically and, as far as is known, the first has never been scaled.

Instead of taking dollars to pay the Indians of the region for their aid, trade goods of use to them are being carried by the scientists. Among the articles desired by the Indians are quantities of lipstick, which they use to decorate their faces and bodies.

The Venezuelan mountains were the setting of Doyle's fanciful story of the Lost World.

The New York Botanical Garden already has a major botanical collection of the region.

Science News Letter, September 30, 1950

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AERONAUTICS

Electric Ovens Provide Hot Food for Combat Crews

➤ IMPROVED electric ovens for giant bombers and troop carriers on long flights have been developed in Dayton, Ohio, at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. They will provide the means of supplying hot food to the largest crews even during a round-the-world non-stop trip.

The heaters are of different designs and different sizes. Bombers such as the B-29 and B-50 will be equipped with two ovens designated as the B-3, which can heat eight cans of a special complete ration in 11 minutes.

It is an oven with two shelves, and is heated with 400-watt and 120-watt units. Heat is regulated by thermostatic controls to prevent temperatures higher than that of boiling water, thus keeping the cans from exploding.

For troop-carrying planes, larger heaters are available. Some will heat 48 cans of rations in 35 minutes. Another oven is designed particularly for frozen foods. It can heat six frozen meals in 35 minutes, and has removable shelves so it can be used for canned rations.

Along with the development of these ovens, new types of canned rations have been developed. These tasty pre-cooked canned meals, known as IF-2 rations, contain such foods as boned chicken, beef and pork loaf, ground meat and spaghetti. They contain also fruit, crackers, cookies and candy for dessert. The frozen dinners contain meat, potatoes and a green vegetable, all wrapped in expendable aluminum trays.

Science News Letter, September 30, 1950



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