

To people who want to write but can't get started!

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Questions

ANTHROPOLOGY—What would be needed to humanize an ape? p. 21.

GENERAL SCIENCE—What was the total bill for research in the U. S. in 1952? p. 20.

Which side of a newspaper is read first? p. 24.

MEDICINE—What is the danger of stomach pains when a child has measles? p. 22.

PSYCHOLOGY—What are two signs that can be applied to all alcoholics? p. 25.

PUBLIC HEALTH—How can part of the deadly effect of smog be explained? p. 24.

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MEDICINE

Before and After X-rays Give Identity of Dead

➤ AN AID to the identification of dead bodies comes from before and after X-ray pictures.

Success with the first large-scale use of this method was reported by Dr. T. C. Brown of the University of Toronto at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston.

The X-ray identification technique showed its value when scientists were faced with the task of identifying 119 bodies, most of them mutilated beyond recognition, after the burning of the pleasure steamship, *Noronic* in Toronto harbor in 1949.

National registration of dental data, though it would cost more than the same registration for fingerprints, might prove valuable in identifying dead bodies, Dr. James M. Dunning of Harvard School of Dental Medicine declared.

The teeth are not only among the most resistant structures in the human body, but also among the most distinctive, he noted.

Since we do not have national registration of dental data, he urged dentists to record conditions of all teeth in their patients as well as of the teeth they have filled or otherwise "restored," and to keep the most recent X-ray surveys of their patients.

At least half a dozen anthropologists in this country have been active in helping police identify dead bodies, Dr. Edward E. Hunt of Harvard University and the Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children reported.

Sex can be told from measurements of hip bones, he said. Whether bones are human or animal, whether too ancient to be of legal significance, whether child or adult, and even in some cases race and geographic origin can be told from an anthropologist's study.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1954

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