

search but have also had long experience as executives in charge of the nation's foremost scientific organizations and institutions.

The President's executive order establishing the new board is as follows:

"The National Research Council was created at the request of President Wilson in 1916 and perpetuated by Executive Order No. 2859, signed by President Wilson on May 11, 1918. In order to carry out to the fullest extent the intent of the above Executive Order there is hereby created a Science Advisory Board with authority, acting through the machinery and under the jurisdiction of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, to appoint committees to deal with specific problems in the various departments.

#### Members of Board

"The Science Advisory Board of the National Research Council will consist of the following members who are hereby appointed for a period of two years: Karl T. Compton, Chairman, President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts; W. W. Campbell, President, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C.; Isaiah Bowman, Chairman, National Research Council, and Director, American Geographical Society, New York City; Gano Dunn, President, J. G. White Engineering Corporation, New York City; Frank B. Jewett, Vice-President, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and President, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Incorporated, New York City; Charles F. Kettering, Vice-President, General Motors Corporation, and President, General Motors Research Corporation, Detroit, Michigan; C. K. Leith, Professor of Geology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin; John C. Merriam, President, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D. C.; R. A. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, and Chairman of the Executive Council, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California."

*Science News Letter, August 19, 1933*

In 50 leading American cities cancer deaths have increased from approximately 71 to 122 per 100,000 population in about 20 years.

The freighter *Seirstad*, which hit an iceberg and sank May 18, landed on two transatlantic cables, putting them out of commission for four days.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

## Decade's White Plague War Adds Year to Average Life

**A**LMOST an entire year has been added to the general average duration of life by America's successful battle against tuberculosis within the decade from 1920 to 1930, statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York City have found. About another year's gain stands to the credit of the previous decade.

That so much has been accomplished in increased life expectation through attack on a single disease is considered to be "very remarkable and gratifying."

According to the mortality statistics of the recent census year, 1930, the curtailment of the average length of life due to tuberculosis was just over one year for white persons of either sex. In 1920 it was a little short of two years. Still another decade further back in time it was about three years.

The loss of potential years of life through a given cause depends not only on the degree of the mortality from that cause, but also on the age period at which its effect is concentrated. In this respect tuberculosis is in a particularly unfavorable position.

Deaths from tuberculosis occur very largely among young persons or persons at the prime of life. As the result of

this, although the death rate from tuberculosis has fortunately decreased in late years so far as to relegate this cause to the seventh rank among the principal causes of death, yet the number of years of life lost, on the average, is still a relatively important item.

Among white persons in the United States in 1930, the average length of life or the expectation of life at birth is shortened by 1.1 years through all forms of tuberculosis. Up to about the twentieth year of life the curtailment of the average remaining after-lifetime by tuberculosis remains nearly the same, irrespective of age, namely, about one year, according to the mortality as of 1930.

After this age it falls rapidly. Among white males, for example, the loss of remaining after-lifetime at age 42 is about one-half year, at age 62, only .15 of a year, or less than two months. The situation is strikingly different in the case of heart disease. There the loss of years of life was nearly the same for all ages up to 52, and only slightly less even at age 62, because heart disease claims most of its victims among persons in or past midlife.

*Science News Letter, August 19, 1933*

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

## Greek Kids Got Spankings; Babies Had Rattles and Bottles

**G**REEK children got spanked with the classic equivalent for a slipper, and their infant brothers and sisters were amused with rattles and fed from nursing bottles.

These connections between child life in ancient and modern times were dug out of masses of Greek art material by Prof. Anita Klein and are described and pictured in a book recently published by the Columbia University Press.

A number of Greek paintings show children undergoing the painful application of a sandal-sole, and liking the process as little as a modern youngster would. Even the children of the gods

were not immune: one scene shows Cupid about to be "attended to" by his mother, Venus, while his father, Mars, looks on.

But when little Greek children were good, they did not go unrewarded. Prof. Klein's researches have brought to light astonishing numbers of toys used ages ago, as well as pictures of pets and records of childish amusements and games. The toys included play-carts and hoops exactly like those used by children today, as well as terra-cotta and bronze figures of dogs, horses, deer, cattle, lions, tortoises, mice, and domestic poultry. Older boys are shown