

As to cancer, early diagnosis and prompt treatment by surgery and radiation are increasing the number of cured patients. Diabetics, thanks to insulin, are living longer than ever before. Most of them are leading fairly normal lives and are able to work as well as other individuals of the same age.

The record for accidents is somewhat unfavorable this year. The increase in industrial accidents is probably a reflection of the speeding up of industry for national defense. In the last World War such an increase occurred. The entrance of large numbers of inexperienced workers into new occupations inevitably introduces its own particular danger. The urgent need of preparing for the safety of the nation may result in some sacrifice of safety for the individual. It is to be hoped, however, that industry will guard against any such tendency at this time, for it not only results in needless waste of human life, but also impedes the carrying out of the vital program of national defense.

Fatalities from motor vehicle accidents will this year exceed those reported in either 1938 or 1939, and may run as high as 34,500 for the country as a whole. The campaign for prevention of automobile accidents, which seemed to function so efficiently in 1938 and 1939, has not been so successful in the past year.

Considering the trend of mortality in recent years, it seems well assured that the public health will continue to improve along many lines during 1941. Whether the excellent record of the last few years can be repeated or even exceeded will depend largely on two or three factors. In the first place, much will depend upon the extent of the spread of influenza now in evidence on the Pacific Coast and other isolated points and upon the continuance of it

in a mild form. A widespread epidemic of a more virulent type of influenza would not only increase deaths from that cause, but would also increase mortality of the older people suffering from chronic conditions.

A second factor which must be considered in a forecast of the mortality of 1941 is the effect of the draft on public health. The bringing together of many individuals who have not established immunity against the more common communicable diseases will undoubtedly increase the incidence of such diseases. We must be prepared for a possible recrudescence of epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis such as we had in the draft of 1917 and 1918. Fortunately the introduction of chemotherapy has put us in a better position to handle this disease than formerly. Likewise the recently developed vaccines for influenza and the type-specific antiserums and chemotherapy for pneumonia should result in better control of the respiratory conditions.

A third factor which may affect unfavorably the 1941 mortality is the accident situation. As was noted before, the hazards resulting from the speeding up of industry for national defense must be guarded against to prevent an increase in such deaths.

However, in spite of these difficulties, which are very real, and which will require the best efforts of all those interested in maintaining the public health at a high level, I believe we can look forward to 1941 with confidence. We can continue to make progress in the saving of human life provided we take seriously our personal obligations to keep fit, and our community obligation to support our official and voluntary health agencies with sufficient resources to carry on their work effectively.

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of Lake Ossipee, in a region where mild earthquakes have been felt before. On Oct. 9, 1925, a quake felt over a 15,000-square-mile area was centered in the same region.

The first reports of the quake were obtained by long-distance telephone and telegraph from the seismograph stations at Harvard Observatory, Harvard, Mass.; Weston College, Weston, Mass.; Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.; Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.; the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, Ontario, Pennsylvania State College and St. Louis University.

Though the damage was slight at the point of origin, waves of the tremor traveled great distances, and were detected by other means. M. W. Lewis, of Hyattsville, Md., reported that a dime balanced on edge on his mantelpiece since June 24 fell over. Presumably this was an effect of the earthquake. A galvanometer in the test laboratory of the Coast and Geodetic Survey recorded the vibrations, as did an instrument for measuring the earth's magnetism at their Cheltenham, Md., observatory.

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SEISMOLOGY

New England Quakes Forecast New Year Week

A FIVE-TO-TWO chance that earthquake shocks will be felt in New England or the Southern Appalachians, or both, probably between January 3 and 7, is forecast by Dr. Helmut Landsberg, well-known geophysicist at Pennsylvania State College.

Explaining that he bases this probability on study of 50 years of Appalachian earthquake patterns, in which follow-up shocks occur after about 13 days or multiples of 13 days in the majority of quakes in the area, Dr. Landsberg added that such recurring shocks in this case would probably be no more severe than those experienced during December. The recent tremors, he said, have been following the typical Appalachian pattern, in which shocks in one region are followed by reaction shocks in another.

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by E. L. MacHattie, of the University of Virginia.

He told the meeting that by magnetically suspending a steel ball $3/32$ inch in diameter in a vacuum, so that friction was nearly eliminated, he was able to spin it 110,000 times per second,

SEISMOLOGY

New England Earthquake Centered Near North Conway

Damage Was Slight at Point of Origin, But Waves Traveled Great Distances and Were Detected

NORTH CONWAY, New Hampshire, was close to the center of the earthquake which shook New England early in the morning of Friday, Dec. 20. This location was determined by experts of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey on the basis of reports from seismograph

stations gathered by Science Service.

The quake occurred at 2 hours 27 minutes 23 seconds a.m., Eastern Standard time. A preliminary determination of the epicenter placed it at 44.1 degrees north latitude and 71.1 degrees west longitude. This is about 20 miles north