

war has called to England for military service the doctor in the University of Toronto medical faculty who would be able to make arrangements for the trial. Dr. Best's own activities are limited to laboratory research.

A means of diagnosing diabetes in its early stages is badly needed, Dr. Best declared, pointing out that at present doctors do not see diabetic patients until most of the insulin-producing cells in

the patient's pancreas are destroyed.

The death rate from diabetes is rising "at an alarming rate" and so is the number of cases, in spite of efforts being made to fight this disease, Dr. Cecil Striker, of Cincinnati, president of the new association, declared in outlining methods by which the association hopes to aid the three-quarters of a million diabetics in the nation.

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study. The rarity of cancer among Indians and the supposed peculiar immunity of Navahos to scarlet fever, he cited as points worthy of investigation, with benefit to Indians and possibly to the world at large.

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#### RESOURCES

### Cork Trees, Rubber Bushes Being Grown in California

**C**ORK trees from Spain and rubber bushes from Mexico are being cultivated in California State Experiment Station nurseries, in an effort to replace supplies from abroad, diminished or threatened with total cut-off by disturbances overseas.

During the coming autumn, 10,000 cork oak seedlings will be distributed free of charge to all persons presenting satisfactory evidence that they can plant and care for 50 or more trees. Experimental plantings in various parts of the state have already indicated that California's soil and climatic conditions are as suitable as those of Spain for the successful production of cork.

The rubber bushes are of the species known as guayule, native to Northern Mexico, of which there are already successful plantations in the southern part of the state. The new stocks being grown are in a nursery sponsored by the Continental Rubber Company, whose directors wish to learn whether guayule can be successfully produced in the interior valleys of California.

Guayule does not produce its rubber in the form of latex or milky sap, as most commercial rubber plants do. Its rubber occurs in solid particles and shreds embedded in the plant tissues, constituting from 18 to 20 per cent. of the plant's weight. It is extracted by grinding up the plant in water, which permits the rubber particles to float to the top.

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#### POPULATION

## U. S. Can Expect as Many Indians By 1980 as in 1492

### Present Trends Indicate Indian Population Will Exceed 700,000 Within the Next Forty Years

**R**EVERSING the vanishing red man trend, Indians in the United States are now multiplying so rapidly that by 1980 the country may actually expect to have as many Indians as when Columbus landed in 1492.

Reporting this prospect to the Institute on the Future of the American Indian, in New York, Dr. Frank Lorimer, director of population studies at American University, predicted an Indian population exceeding 700,000 and possibly reaching 750,000 in the next 40 years, judging by present trends. There are now about 360,000 Indians, and in Columbus' time, by conservative estimates of anthropologists, there were 700,000 to 800,000.

Birth control in Indian families was proposed by Dr. Lorimer, as one solution to the Indians' future economic worries which will increase if their numbers grow too rapidly.

Declaring that, aside from health hazards, the problems of rapid population increase are clearly economic, Dr. Lorimer said:

"I venture the suggestion that it may be wise to proceed along all three of the possible lines of solution I have suggested—allocation of new lands, development of new economic techniques, and limitation of births."

What these solutions would mean to tribal life, the cultural and political changes involved, the sociologist added, are questions for study by specialists on Indian life.

Dr. Lorimer advocated more attention to studying Indian population trends, to

gain facts needed in understanding Indian problems in different areas.

Possibility of establishing population registers in various areas, where a continuous record of Indian births, marriages, migration, and deaths could be kept was suggested, as one way of supplementing census data. Such registers are kept in European countries under church or civil authorities, Dr. Lorimer pointed out.

That Indians, whom some scientists rate the world's healthiest people in pre-Columbian times, are on a new upgrade in health, was reported by Dr. J. G. Townsend, former medical director for the U. S. Office of Indian Affairs.

Indians in the United States still have more tuberculosis and more trachoma than the general population, he stated. But blame for the tuberculosis can be laid to economic ills, in Dr. Townsend's opinion, not to any special predisposition of the Indian race to this disease. Indians, he said, are now developing a natural immunity to tuberculosis.

Hope that trachoma, once a terrible scourge to Indian eyesight, will be wiped out in a few years was forecast by Dr. Townsend. The discovery by Indian Service physicians and consultants that trachoma is caused by a virus and that it can be made non-infectious by sulfanilamide treatment is having world-wide repercussions, bringing hope to other peoples afflicted by the disease.

Pointing out that the newer hospitals for Indians have laboratories well equipped for research, Dr. Townsend suggested important opportunities for

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