



### BRIGHT METEOR

A happy accident resulted in this photograph of what was probably one of the Leonid meteors on the night of last November 17-18. Rev. John P. Delaney, professor of physics at Loyola College, had his camera open from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. to photograph the star paths in the north and found he had "trapped" a meteor also.

than 2% and will to some extent eliminate need for plastic surgery to efface scars and correct deformities.

Evidence indicating that domestic barnyard and wild prairie fowl constitute a reservoir of the viruses of equine encephalomyelitis and St. Louis encephalitis and that mosquitoes carry the virus was reported.

Possibility that infantile paralysis may be spread by flies appeared in a report that the virus of the disease had been isolated on two occasions from flies caught in the vicinity of excreta from infantile paralysis patients during infantile paralysis epidemics.

Largest encephalitis epidemic on record in the Western Hemisphere occurred in the Northwest during the summer of 1941, attacking more than 3,000 and killing nearly 10% of those attacked.

Encouraging results with vaccination against encephalitis and from the use of human convalescent or hyperimmune animal serum were reported in Russia.

Studies suggesting that the infantile paralysis virus invades the body through the mouth and alimentary tract or through the lungs, rather than through the nose and olfactory nerves as previously believed, were reported.

A decline in pneumonia deaths during an influenza epidemic occurred, for the first time on record, during the winter of 1940-1941.

First trials on human patients of gramicidin, germicidal substance from soil bacteria, showed it to be effective in empyema from pneumonia, sinusitis, bladder infections and staphylococcus infections in wounds.

Surgical construction of an artificial esophagus, to replace one closed by lye burns, was accomplished successfully for the second time in the United States.

Evidence that the cause of cirrhosis of the liver is poor diet, and probably a specific vitamin deficiency, appeared in many reports.

Tuberculosis patients were treated with Promin, a new chemical remedy, with results that justify continuation of the investigation.

Hope of preventing meningitis appeared in re-

ports that sulfadiazine not only succeeds as a treatment but banishes the meningococci from the patient's nose and throat, thus preventing his becoming a healthy carrier of the disease.

A record of no rheumatic fever attacks among 55 patients while taking sulfanilamide continuously from November through June each year between 1936 and 1940 was announced, giving hope that this drug might prove effective in controlling the disease by preventing recurrences.

Sulfathiazole and sulfapyridine offer a four-to-one chance for cure of gonorrhea in men within five weeks after beginning of treatment, findings in eight clinics showed.

A method of treating group O blood, the universal donor blood, to make it safer for emergency transfusion, was announced.

Studies showing that hardening of the arteries may be a condition of faulty fat utilization resulting from deficiency of the pancreas hormone, lipocaic, were reported.

Studies indicating heparin, anti-blood clotting agent, might be useful in preventing adhesions after abdominal operations were reported.

A record-breaking epidemic of measles occurred in the United States.

Deaths of two boys from bubonic plague, increase of the infection among wild rodents and eastward spread of the infection in these animals prompted the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service to call a Plague Control Conference which recommended: 1. extension of anti-plague measures; 2. appropriation by federal and local authorities of \$1,800,000 for plague control.

Sulfathiazole was reported, on basis of successful trials in mice, to be a potential anti-plague remedy.

It was demonstrated that bodily changes closely similar to those of profound pituitary-gland deficiency can be caused by chronic under-nutrition.

The urine of boys having muscular dystrophy was shown to contain large amounts of female sex hormones.

Treatment of sexual deficiency in the male was advanced by development of a synthetic male sex hormone, methyl testosterone, which is effective when given by mouth.

Existence of a potent sex hormone, estriol, which is found only in human beings, was announced.

The synthetic female sex hormone, diethylstilbestrol, was released for general medical use by the U. S. Food, Drug and Cosmetic Administration.

Encouraging results in treating the muscle weakness disease, myasthenia gravis, by surgical removal of the thymus gland were reported.

Discovery that other tissues of the body than the thyroid gland can use iodine and may convert it into a chemical like thyroxine, thyroid gland hormone, was announced.

All steroids having hormonal properties will produce narcosis if given in pharmacological doses in a manner so that they are absorbed rapidly, but steroids devoid of hormonal properties do not exhibit this action, it was reported.

For the relief of high blood pressure improved kidney extracts, renin from kidneys of animals other than that being treated, the enzyme, tyrosinase, and a new surgical operation were reported as promising but still in the experimental stage, with a five-year-progress report of an older surgical operation showing striking prolongation of life for patients with malignant hypertension.

Kidneys with reduced blood circulation liberate

# Clip and mail this Coupon

To SCIENCE CLUBS OF AMERICA, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

- Send me information on organizing a science club.  
 Enroll me as an associate of Science Clubs of America. 25 cents is enclosed.

To SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

- Start my subscription to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for  1 year, \$5  
 Renew  2 years, \$7  
 (No extra postage to anywhere in the world)

To THINGS of Science, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

- Enter my membership in THINGS for  6 months, \$2  
 Renew  1 year, \$4

Name .....

Street Address .....

City and State .....