

GEOGRAPHY

Antarctic Peak Surveyed, Reveals New Figure

See Front Cover

► MOUNT EREBUS in the Antarctic has been found to be 12,280 feet high during a recently completed survey. The height of this smoldering volcano was first computed during an expedition 1910-1913 to be 13,200 feet. A later survey showed it to be 15,325 feet, and to add to the confusion, cartographers have recently used the figure of 14,997 feet.

Discrepancies in the earlier figures were caused by poor surveying conditions. Only during the latest survey was it possible by electronic means to measure a base line long enough to provide the precise measurements, the U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., reported.

The smoking peak is seen on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

• Science News Letter, 80:263 October 14, 1961

MEDICINE

Reducing Blood Potassium Prevents Serious Seizures

► A WAY of preventing a kind of seizure known to physicians as Stokes-Adams seizures is reported by Dr. Louis Tobian, director of the University of Minnesota's Cardiac Clinic, Minneapolis, Minn.

The seizure is accompanied by unconsciousness, gasping breathing and heart block.

Bringing down the level of potassium in the blood plasma by dosage with chlorothiazide results in relief from the Stokes-Adams attacks, Dr. Tobian reports in the New England Journal of Medicine, 265:623, 1961.

The lessened incidence of seizures was not accompanied by any significant change in blood plasma acidity although the bicarbonate in the plasma rose slightly in some cases. The seizures were prevented even when the heart block continued in some patients, Dr. Tobian states.

• Science News Letter, 80:263 October 14, 1961

Questions

EDUCATION—Can a computer learn from its "experience" with different individuals? p. 255.

MEDICINE—How many "episodes" of poisoning among young children occur each year? p. 253.

SPACE—Which mother tongue is spoken by the largest percentage of people on earth? p. 251.

Photographs: Cover, U. S. Navy for U. S. Geological Survey; p. 251, Thiokol Chemical Corporation; p. 253, Indiana University; p. 255, National Carbon Company; p. 258, Structural Clay Products Institute; p. 262, Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

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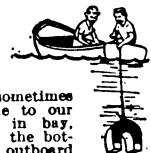
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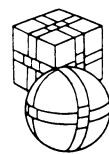
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