

Blood serum from convalescent measles patients has been in current use with some degree of success as a means of prevention with children that have already been exposed.

Now schools should not be closed when measles are prevalent, according to Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, chairman of the division of medical science of the National Research Council, whose son, Dr. Henry F. Vaughan, health commissioner of Detroit, has been concerned in the research on measles toxin. Every child, he said, should be inspected daily because a skilled physician is able in the majority of instances to detect this disease in the pre-eruptive stage. When this is done the child should be sent home and put to bed and exposed children should be treated with the convalescent serum.

Uncomplicated measles is not highly fatal but it pre-disposes to virulent pneumonia. One attack of measles gives lasting immunity while adults who have not had the disease are quite as susceptible as children. The younger the child, however, the more fatal is the disease, the death rate being highest among those under one year of age.

GREATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT TO UNEARTH ANCIENT ATHENS

The greatest archaeological venture of all history is about to begin. The ancient agora or civic center of Athens is to be unearthed.

Millions of dollars are to be spent, thousands of Athenians will leave their present homes for new residences, thousands of laborers are to be kept at work excavating for some fifty years, and two generations of archaeologists are to explore and study the seat of the greatest civilization of the classical world.

America with the cooperation of the Greek Government will sponsor this ambitious undertaking. Prof. R. V. D. Magoffin, president of Archaeological Institute of America, now en route to Athens, in a special statement prepared for Science Service explains, as follows, the archaeological opportunity that is now to be realized:

Rumors of the willingness of the Greek Government to allow some foreign government or agency to excavate the ancient agora, or civic center of Athens, set the archaeological world agog with excitement. The scientific importance of such an excavation was stupendous, and the hopes of finding many objects of value, as well as of interest, were almost certain of realization. Other nations which might well have expected to win such a concession, magnanimously stopped aside and let it, be understood that they favored having the offer made to the United States of America.

The acceptance of that offer by the Greek Government to the United States through the American School of Classical Studies in Athens was announced last year by Prof. Edward Capps, chairman of the managing committee of that school. At that time it was understood that the United States would pay for the houses, which would be demolished and for the work of excavation, and that the Greek Government would pay for the land which should be expropriated. A short time ago it was understood that a modification of the Greek side of the agreement would be made because of the continued financial difficulties there. This will probably be only

a temporary incapacity on the part of Greece. The full cooperation of the Greek Government, however, will guarantee that no fancy prices will be set upon either land or buildings.

It is anticipated that such excavations will continue for not less than fifty years. The splendid opportunity is clear at once. Such excavations, conducted in the scientific manner guaranteed by the experience and obligations of the American School of Athens, will train two generations of visiting professors and resident graduate fellows and students. The amount of enthusiasm which will be brought back by the persons who have had some months or a year or two at Athens, will soon be reflected in a livelier and more appreciative attitude on the part of the students in this country.

VOICE SAVING POOR ECONOMY

"Speech should be taught as a physical exercise - as a sitting up, looking at, breathing deep exercise," is the opinion of John P. Opdycke, of New York, who surveys the language situation in America and makes a plea for better treatment of voices and words, in a forthcoming issue of American Speech.

Mr. Opdycke finds that laziness is the cause of most of the shortcomings in children's speech; and he recommends that the physical training department in the average junior and senior high school should work actively in cooperation with the English department in making alert, clear-thinking speakers of the students.

The English teacher's fight against speech laziness is bound to be a hard one, he points out, so long as business men talk around cigars and women mumble and swallow their voices. But the fight is worth while, because a good voice is one of the greatest personal, professional, and business assets that a school can furnish to its students.

"Every teacher of English should be obliged to qualify for the teaching of oral English simultaneously with his qualifying as a teacher of 'written' English" Mr. Opdycke declares.

CANCER HEREDITY DEFENDED BY DR. SLYE

A staunch defense for the inheritability of cancer was put up by Dr. Maud Slye of the University of Chicago, in a recent address. She rapped what she calls the fundamentalists in science who, while they concede the value of her long series of experiments on cancer susceptibility and resistance in mice, doubt the possibility of a similar application of the same laws to the human species.

The possibility of cancer inheritance in humans cannot be dismissed, she said, because of the haphazard matings of man. The chance mating of two hybrid carriers of any given recessive, such as cancer has proved to be in mice, is almost certain to occur sooner or later. When it does the recessive character appears in the children. This accounts for its sudden appearance when there has been no known