

Many Occupations Cause Deafness

Health

IF a group of weavers tried to strike for better pay or shorter hours they would have a hard time holding a meeting, because so many would be unable to hear what their leader was trying to say.

This possible outcome of deafness as a result of a noisy job was brought to the attention of the Federation of Organizations for the Hard of Hearing by Dr. Frank G. Pedley, of the Montreal General Hospital.

A Scottish physician has found that 75 per cent. of boiler makers either could not hear at all at a public meeting, or could hear only with difficulty and Dr. Pedley's own experience with weavers is similar.

"Every one has heard of boiler-maker's deafness, but there are many other occupations in which work is carried on amid a most frightful din, and in which the workers almost invariably lose their hearing," he stated.

Among occupations which are hard on the ears are: Spinning, carding and combing in the textile industry, chipping and stamping metals, stone cutting, tunnel construction, riveting,

stoking aboard ship. Some jobs in aviation, testing of firearms, cement manufacture, and wood work were included.

The number of individuals exposed to undue noise runs into hundreds of thousands, Dr. Pedley estimated. Chronic occupational deafness usually creeps on insidiously until some one calls the victim's attention to it. This type of deafness is traced to a degeneration of the delicate receiving apparatus of the internal ear.

DEFECTIVE hearing can be inherited, Dr. Emil Amberg, of Detroit, emphasized in an address on marriage and deafness.

Citing types of inherited deafness, Dr. Amberg spoke of otosclerosis, a disease characterized by the formation of spongy bone in the labyrinth of the ear. Investigations indicate that this condition exists in certain persons who have an inborn tendency to it. Marriage between close relatives is likely to result in deafness among the children, if the parents had a record of deaf-mutism in the family.

Science News-Letter, June 28, 1930

Fossils of Virginia—Continued

tropics all those regions in which the bones are found: the tropics being, as before observed, the natural limits of habitation for the elephant. But if it be admitted that this obliquity has really decreased, and we adopt the highest rate of decrease yet pretended, that is of one minute in a century, to transfer the northern tropic to the Arctic circle, would carry the existence of these supposed elephants 250,000 years back; a period far beyond our conception of the duration of animal bones left exposed to the open air, as these are in many instances. Besides, though these regions would then be supposed within the tropics, yet their winters would have been too severe for the sensibility of the elephant. They would have had too but one day and one night in the year, a circumstance to which we have no reason to suppose the nature of the elephant fitted. However, it has been demonstrated, that, if a variation of obliquity in the ecliptic takes place at all, it is vibratory, and never exceeds the limits of 9 degrees, which is not sufficient to

bring these bones within the tropics. —One of these hypotheses, or some other equally voluntary and inadmissible to cautious philosophy, must be adopted to support the opinion that these are the bones of the elephant. For my own part, I find it easier to believe that an animal may have existed, resembling the elephant in his tusks, and general anatomy, while his nature was in other respects extremely different.

Science News-Letter, June 28, 1930

Safe Vacations—Continued

A stretcher can be improvised from two poles and some coats. The poles are slipped through the sleeves of the coats which have been turned inside out. The flaps are then turned down and buttoned underneath.

In case you are alone with the injured person you can carry him in your arms for a short distance. For a longer distance it is best to use the fireman's lift and carry him on your back.

Science News-Letter, June 28, 1930

NEW BOOKS

SOME APPLICATIONS OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY TO BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE—George Barger—*McGraw-Hill*—186 p. \$2.50. Six lectures given under the George Fisher Baker non-resident lectureship in chemistry at Cornell University by the professor of chemistry in relation to medicine at Edinburgh University. The subjects covered are hormones, vitamins, chemotherapy, chemical constitution and physiological action, and the blue adsorption compounds of iodine. The book is too technical to be read without considerable knowledge of chemistry, but scientists and students of biology, chemistry and medicine will enjoy these lectures by an eminent authority.

Biochemistry

Science News-Letter, June 28, 1930

AN ALBUM OF OUR WILD FLOWERS; AN ALBUM OF OUR TREES—*S. Gabriel Sons and Co.* \$2 each. These two books may be used to encourage young beginners in botany to found their own herbaria. Each consists of a number of sheets on which pressed specimens may be mounted, a sheet of gummed strips for holding them down, and several pages of pictures which will aid in identifications, printed in color on gummed paper which may be stuck to the herbarium sheets.

Botany

Science News-Letter, June 28, 1930

THE LONDON NAVAL CONFERENCE: ITS BACKGROUND AND RESULTS—*B. H. Williams—Univ. of Pittsburgh.* 111 p., 75c. A series of twelve radio talks, published in an attractive paper-bound book. With the Battle of the Treaty now looming in the Senate, these essays are timely and will be useful as a review of the naval situation.

Politics

Science News-Letter, June 28, 1930

FRUIT MARKETS IN EASTERN ASIA—*B. H. Crocheron and W. J. Norton—Univ. of California Printing Office.* 366 p. "Around the world each useful product flies," wrote Oliver Goldsmith many years ago. The author of "The Deserted Village" would doubtless have been amazed to learn that the appetite for fruit of Malays in the Dutch East Indies helps to keep villages in California and Palestine well populated. This and a thousand other like facts make this economic bulletin most interesting reading.

Economics

Science News-Letter, June 28, 1930