



TUNING IN ON MOSQUITOES

The physics laboratory of the U. S. Public Health Service devised this apparatus, which is similar to radio, in an effort to produce a sound that will attract mosquitoes in large numbers so that they may be exterminated. It will reproduce with unusual purity frequencies from 128 to 7,500 vibrations per second—from far below to far above the range of the human ear. Harold Link, assistant, who worked with Frederick Knowles, assistant physicist, building the apparatus is pictured tuning it. It has not yet been tested in practice.

MEDICINE

Medical Centers Urged to Lower Cost of Medical Care

FOR FIVE YEARS a group of experts have studied to find what is wrong, economically, with medical care in America. They have tried to find why it costs the patient so much to be sick while at the same time many physicians barely make a living.

This week this group of 48 experts, known as the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, made their final report. Here is the verdict:

"That medical care be furnished largely by organized groups of physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, and other associated personnel, centered around a hospital, and rendering home, office, and hospital care.

"That all basic public health services be extended until they are available to the entire population, according to its needs.

"That the costs of medical care be placed on a group payment basis through the use of insurance, taxation, or both methods, without precluding the con-

tinuation of the individual fee basis for those who prefer it.

"That a specific organization be formed in every community or state for the study, evaluation, and coordination of medical service.

"That the professional education of physicians, dentists, pharmacists, and nurses be reoriented to accord more closely with present needs, and that educational facilities be provided to train three new types of workers in the field of health; namely, nursing attendants, nurse-midwives, and trained hospital and clinical administrators."

Two minority reports were presented by members of the committee who could not conscientiously subscribe to the views of the majority. The largest group of dissenters urged that government competition in the practice of medicine be discontinued and that the general practitioner, the old-time family physician, be restored to his central place in medical practice.

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BIOGRAPHY

American Astronomer Gets Royal Society Medal

DR. GEORGE E. HALE, director emeritus of the Mt. Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, Calif., has been awarded the Copley medal of the Royal Society of London, for his work on the magnetic field of the sun. Two Germans were also honored with Royal Society medals. Dr. Fritz Haber, who last year was a Nobelist, will receive the Rumford medal in recognition of his work in the application of thermodynamics to chemical reactions, while Prof. R. Willstätter of Munich, who has done notable work on the way in which plants manufacture foods, will be presented the Davy medal.

Dr. J. Chadwick of Cambridge, who this year demonstrated the existence of the neutron, was awarded the Hughes medal. Royal medals were awarded to Prof. R. Robinson of Oxford University for his work in organic chemistry and to Prof. E. Mellanby of University of Sheffield, for his work on dietary factors, especially on rickets.

Dr. C. E. Correns, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany, will receive the Darwin medal for his researches in genetics. Dr. Correns is one of the three men who in 1900 re-discovered the scientifically revolutionary researches of Gregor Mendel.

Dr. Torwald Madsen, director of the State Serum Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark, will be decorated with the Buchanan medal for his work on immunity, especially in relation to diphtheria antitoxin.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Cleanliness Prevents Skin Inflammations

PERSONAL cleanliness is an important means of preventing inflammations of the skin acquired by industrial workers in the course of their work, says Dr. Louis Schwartz of the U. S. Public Health Service.

About half of all compensation claims are for cases of the condition known as dermatitis, which covers skin inflammations and diseases. About 100,000 cases of occupational dermatitis occur throughout the United States in one year, conservative estimates show.

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