

western evening sky just above the bright star Fomalhaut. Discovered by Dr. G. F. Dodwell at Adelaide, it was suggested that it might be Tempel comet of 1866, associated with the famous Leonid meteors, but it has not yet been determined whether the newly found comet is this object or a comet hitherto unknown.

Appearing as a diffuse object on photographic plates, the Dodwell comet discovered at Adelaide, Australia, has been located by Prof. George Van Biesbroeck of Yerkes Observatory. The photographic image is of ninth magnitude and shows no tail.

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MEDICINE-BACTERIOLOGY

## Filtrable Viruses Will Not Thrive on Lifeless Food

**F**ILTRABLE VIRUSES, which cause such diseases as smallpox, yellow fever and rabies, and filtrable bacteria are not the same, Dr. Roscoe R. Hyde of Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health emphasized in a discussion of filtrable viruses at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A filtrable virus is one thing. A bacterium that will ordinarily pass through a filter, or may be made to do so by special methods, such as growing on the "K" medium of Prof. Arthur I. Kendall of Northwestern University, is distinctly another, Dr. Hyde said in effect.

No one has so far been able to make the filtrable viruses grow and multiply on any lifeless medium, as can be done for bacteria, filter-passing or otherwise.

Dr. Hyde does not believe that the organisms which Prof. Kendall has grown on his special media are alternate forms of the disease-causing viruses. Prof. Kendall grew the organisms from cases of measles, influenza and the common cold, all said to be caused by viruses.

"This is not surprising," said Dr. Hyde, "as organisms from these diseases have frequently been cultivated on ordinary media. But it is most unlikely that any of these organisms are the causative agents of the diseases in question."

### Challenge to Man

The viruses lay a challenge to man not only for his food, his clothing and his shelter, but for his very life, Dr. Hyde declared. Much of the confusion about them results from the fact that they are known by what they do, rather than by what they are.

"It is commonly stated that the common cold is due to a filtrable virus. The statement may be true but the evidence at present does not warrant this conclusion," Dr. Hyde said, pointing out that the agent causing a common cold will pass through a filter but is not necessarily a virus.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

## Influenza Outbreak Is Travelling North And East

**T**HE INFLUENZA outbreak is travelling north and east, reports received at the U. S. Public Health Service for the week ending Dec. 17 indicate. The total for the country was 33,823, an increase of more than 6,000 over the pre-

ETHNOLOGY

## Cannibalism Remains Because Old Chiefs Like Human Flesh

**C**ANNIBALISM among the Namba tribes of the New Hebrides will never be wiped out during the lifetime of certain old chiefs who eat human flesh because they like the flavor.

Miss Evelyn Cheesman, leader of an expedition to the New Hebrides, gives this as the statement of Ringapat, King of the Big Nambas dwelling in the small island of Atchin. Miss Cheesman presented her findings before the Royal Geographical Society in London.

The Nambas' idea of eating a corpse is to prevent the murdered man's spirit from walking the earth and causing mis-

vious week's total. The South is chiefly affected, while the New England and New York group of states have not reported any signs of an outbreak yet. Alabama reported the largest number of cases, 7,034.

Only about eight or ten per cent. of the actual number of cases of influenza get reported, health authorities point out. Many patients do not call a physician for a mild case, and many physicians do not report mild cases which appear to be severe attacks of common cold. The disease is running a comparatively mild course with few fatalities in the present outbreak.

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ENGINEERING

## Six Colors Mix in Water At Base of Capitol

See Front Cover

**O**NE OF THE MOST spectacular fountain lighting systems places the capitol at Washington in a new setting, when the building is viewed from the direction of the Union Station.

Engineers describe the recently installed system as a fixed color installation. Water in the fountain and terrace plays over a combination of six colors. Considering the size of equipment and electric power consumption, this is one of the largest installations of its kind, according to the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., which supplied the photograph.

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chief. They believe that if the body is shared among several people the spirit ceases to exist. Only enemies are thus disposed of. The more feared the man in life, the quicker the feast takes place to put the spirit out of action.

Fear seems to be the sole motive among these cannibals. Respectable members of the tribe are said to despise the cannibals for their depraved tastes. Miss Cheesman reported that there was no indication that a feast was held with the idea of acquiring any of the dead man's qualities such as strength or courage.

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