

of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that the heavy ray-producing element polonium had been recovered from old radon tubes obtained from Memorial Hospital in New York City. In one test polonium equivalent to \$2,100 was obtained by the new method. Polonium is the radioactive element discovered by the late Madame Curie, who, with her husband, also discovered radium.

The scientific junkman method consists essentially of separating the polonium from impurities by use of electric current in a solution. An every-day use of this electrolytic technique is in the silver plating of metal, like knives, forks and spoons.

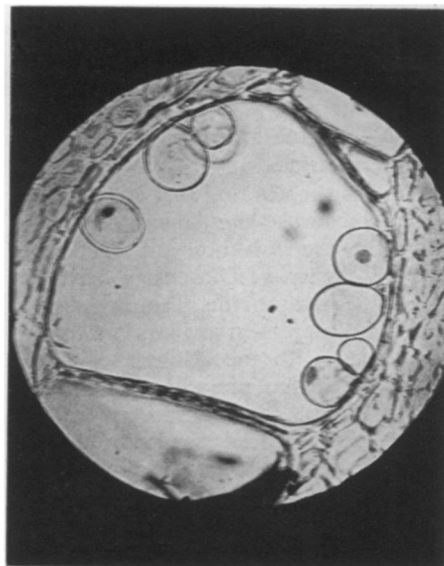
Using a variation for the common method adapted by the electrochemist

Prof. Colin Fink of Columbia University from earlier techniques, Prof. Pegram and Dr. Dunning employed a rotating electric contact in their polonium-bearing solution.

Revolving at speeds as high as 6,000 revolutions each minute the rim of the electrode moved with velocities up to 36 feet a second.

In a sample extraction test the scientists obtained 35 millicuries of polonium. A millicurie is the unit by which the amount of radioactive materials is measured. A gram of radium, worth \$60,000, is equal to 1,000 millicuries. By obtaining 35 millicuries the Columbia investigators recovered polonium worth \$2,100.

Science News Letter, January 12, 1935



YOUNG TYLOSES

One of the peculiar structures that clog up water ducts in living trees. They are outgrowths from living cells in the wood adjacent to the ducts. Some woods always have them; some have them only in certain circumstances, as when attacked by parasitic fungi. This photograph is remarkable because it shows the protoplasm and nuclei of the cells from which the tyloses have grown.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Human Beings Little Improved Since the Stone Age

HUMAN beings have shown no marked improvement in their evolutionary status since they were mere Stone Age men and cave dwellers, at the end of the last Ice Age.

Furthermore, today, the human species is faced with danger. By its benevolence and its medical and religious ideals, it is protecting and perpetuating the weak and unfit, the very types that nature used to weed out ruthlessly, leaving the fit to survive.

These warning signposts along the road of man's destiny were pointed out by Prof. Ernest A. Hooton, noted anthropologist of Harvard University, speaking before the annual meeting of the Society of the Sigma Xi.

Calling for a "biological new deal," Prof. Hooton said:

Destroy the Public Enemy

"Let us cease to delude ourselves with the belief that education, religion, or other measures of social amelioration can transform base metal into gold. Public enemies must be destroyed—not reformed. We need a biological new deal which will segregate and sterilize the anti-social and the mentally unfit. Intelligent artificial selection should replace natural selection."

The bearing that physique, good or bad, has on culture in being investigated in extensive researches, Prof. Hooton

showed. Growth studies of school children show that the physically fit child is apt to be the superior student. On the other side of the ledger, mental defectives are commonly associated with subnormal physique. The criminal also is under par physically.

Physically Inferior

"Charles Goring conclusively demonstrated that English criminals, as a group, are vastly inferior in physical development to the law-abiding population," said the anthropologist. "My own weary researches upon the American criminal in ten states are even more decisive. While the complete results cannot yet be divulged to a none-too-impatiently waiting public, it can be stated positively that the biological inferiority of the criminal is no less marked than his economic ineffectiveness and his general stupidity."

In his plea for better human stock, the anthropologist said:

"We all admit that our social engine has stalled, and a succession of political, economic, and sociological drivers have been pulling and pushing every movable gadget in a futile effort to make it start. May not a biological bystander suggest the possibility that some one has watered the gasoline?"

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PSYCHOLOGY

Psychologist Tells How To Prolong Mental Life

OLD AGE as well as extreme youth is being put through its mental paces by the psychologists. Prof. Walter R. Miles of Yale reported to the American Association for the Advancement of Science that although mental ability goes down hill steadily with old age, if you keep practicing your skills you will probably be able to excel the younger generation. For instance in trapshooting, while those 40 to 44 years of age do better than those 50 to 54, young shooters aged 10 to 19 do far worse than either group. In other skilled activities also the psychological elements of skill, practice and experience have a counterbalancing effect on the inevitable psychological ravages of age.

Prof. Miles suggested that longevity serves as a sort of mental test because he finds that the great men of all ages have lived long lives. Those who are listed in Who's Who, for instance, have longer life spans than the ordinary run of mortals.

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