



NEW ENGLAND TALK BECOMES RARE SPECIMEN

In the Rhode Island kitchen, shown above, Herman G. Tucker, farmer-auctioneer, immortalizes his ideas for choosing a wife, while Robert L. Stone of Dr. Kurath's field staff records the sounds. Over a thousand similar records, the first systematic survey of New England speech ever made, will be used in making maps for a Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada, which a number of American universities are sponsoring.

MEDICINE

Warning Against Infantile Paralysis Vaccination Issued

A WARNING to physicians of the country to stop further vaccinations of children against infantile paralysis appears in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (Dec. 28).

The warning may be read between the lines of a report of twelve cases of infantile paralysis, six of them fatal, following vaccination against the disease. The report is signed by Dr. J. P. Leake, Medical Director, U. S. Public Health Service, one of the country's authorities on this disease.

The twelve cases developed following the use of one or the other of two vaccines, named in the report only as vaccine A and vaccine B. Both vaccines were prepared from infantile paralysis virus treated so as to make it incapable of causing the disease, in the opinion of the scientists who made the vaccines. The cases of the disease following their use were reported to the U. S. Public Health Service by the scientists responsible for the vaccines,

by several health officers, and by others.

Twelve cases of the disease following many thousand vaccinations does not seem at first glance a large percentage. The circumstances of the cases, however, and the amount of infantile paralysis among children of the same ages in the same communities, and the number of cases normally to be expected make the twelve cases much more significant, Dr. Leake points out in his report.

"Likelihood of the whole series of cases having occurred through natural causes is extremely small," he states.

He believes that many physicians will feel that these cases make "undesirable the further use of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) virus for human vaccination at present."

"Although any one of these cases may have been entirely unconnected with the vaccine, the implication of the series as a whole is clear," he states.

The cases also furnish new evidence in support of the theory that the virus

of infantile paralysis travels along the nerves and not in the blood or lymph streams, as most disease "germs" do. In every one of these cases where the sequence is known, the level of the spinal cord first affected corresponded to the arm or leg where the vaccine was injected. The paralysis began either in the vaccinated limb or in the corresponding one on the other side of the body.

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LINGUISTICS

Yankees Lose Accent, And Boston its "Broad A"

NEW England is losing its famous brand of speech.

Even literary Boston, stronghold of the Broad A, is succumbing to the example of non-Bostonian accents heard over the radio, on the movie screen, and in other contacts.

Fading of New England's individual way of talking is detected by Dr. Hans Kurath of Brown University, who has completed the first systematic survey of New England speech ever attempted. The survey is for a Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada, which Dr. Kurath is directing.

It has taken four years to survey New England alone, Dr. Kurath reports. His staff visited 225 communities, talking with people, and making phonograph records and notations, all the way from the Green Mountains to Cape Cod and from Maine to Connecticut.

Way down east, along the seacoast, New England phrases and pronunciations are best holding their own, Dr. Kurath learned. A wheelbarrow is still a "weelbarrow" in a coast village. And forty is still "foty" with the vowel sounded like a in "all." But western New Englanders pronounce their "r"s and central New Englanders are taking to the western fashion.

The playwright or novelist who portrays New England farmers, fishermen, and school teachers will in future have to achieve realism, it appears, not by odd dialect and quaint sayings, but by making his characters talk prosaically like other people from the northern United States.

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To test the ability of glued arches to stand heavy snow loads, the Forest Products Laboratory has piled sandbags weighing 31,500 pounds on the roof of a new building containing three-hinged arches of glued wood construction.