



DR. JOHN A. WILSON

ARCHAEOLOGY

Young Egyptologist Named To Succeed Prof. Breasted

THE far-flung expeditions and researches into the past of civilization conducted by the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, are to be directed by a comparatively young Egyptologist, Dr. John A. Wilson. Announcement of Dr. Wilson's appointment as acting director, to succeed the late Prof. James H. Breasted, has been made by the president of Chicago University.

Dr. Wilson is 36 years of age and was a pupil of Prof. Breasted's in his study for the Ph.D. degree in Egyptology. Since then, he has accompanied expeditions to Luxor, Egypt, sent out by the Institute to copy and study inscriptions on the ancient walls. He is author in collaboration of several volumes on Egyptian writings.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1936

RADIO

March 10, 3:15 p. m., E.S.T.
ADVENTURES IN COLOR—Charles Bittinger, artist-physicist of Washington, D. C.

March 17, 3:15 p. m., E.S.T.
THE "IRISH" POTATO — Dr. F. J. Stevenson, United States Bureau of Plant Industry.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

MEDICINE

New Childbirth Anesthetic Gives Safe Refreshing Sleep

Tried in Five Hundred Cases in Washington, D. C. Paraldehyde-Benzyl Alcohol Scores Complete Success

A SAFE way of taking the suffering out of childbirth has long been a goal of medical scientists as well as the prayer of countless mothers the world over. One by one, various anesthetics and pain-killing agents have been tried—chloroform, ether, nitrous oxide or "laughing gas," twilight sleep, to name a few familiar ones.

Some have been rejected because of danger to mother or child. Others were of limited use because complicated apparatus and skilled anesthetists were needed to give them. Others have brought only partial relief of suffering, or have relieved the pain in some cases and not in others.

Latest step in the long quest is the development of a new anesthetic mixture consisting of paraldehyde and benzyl alcohol. It was developed in the pharmacology laboratories of George Washington University's medical school by Dr. George B. Roth, in collaboration with Dr. Howard F. Kane, head of the obstetrical department where it was given its clinical trial on mothers in childbirth.

Safety is one of the greatest advantages of the new anesthetic mixture. It is only mildly toxic, and if pure and properly given is considered safer than any of the other methods used to relieve suffering in childbirth. It has been tried in 500 cases at George Washington University Hospital and no ill effects have been noted in mother or child. It can be easily given, another big advantage.

After the injection, in almost every case, the mother falls into a deep, refreshing sleep. The mother can be roused to answer questions, and occasionally is a bit restless. But when she awakens, hours after her child has been born, she has no memory of the experience at all and has suffered no pain during the birth process.

Another of the advantages of the new anesthetic is the fact that the babies are in much better condition when they are born. They do not need to be slapped or held upside-down to make them start

breathing. They cry normally almost immediately after birth and are pink and healthy looking.

The chemicals which are responsible for this safe relief of childbirth pains have been known for some time. Paraldehyde is what is known as a hypnotic and has been used to quiet victims of delirium tremens and nervous disorders and as an antidote to strychnine. Benzyl alcohol is a mild local anesthetic and was added to overcome difficulties in the administration of the paraldehyde.

The paraldehyde-benzyl alcohol mixture is not, Dr. Kane points out, suitable for use in surgical operations.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1936

MEDICINE

Mother Tells Experiences With New Safe Anesthetic

By a Mother Who Had a "Paraldehyde" Baby

This was written by the wife of a Washington, D. C. medical scientist. She was one of the many obstetrical cases upon which the new painless childbirth drug, a mixture of paraldehyde and benzyl alcohol, was given its clinical trial.

Like every woman, I suppose, who is expecting her first baby, the delight at the thought of the coming child was overshadowed by my dread of the actual childbirth. I tried not to remember the too-vivid accounts I had heard of other women's sufferings. Perhaps because I am a medical scientist's wife, I had heard more of these than most women. Even the knowledge that I was to have a new anesthetic to help me through my ordeal, one which my doctor assured me would deaden the pain absolutely, failed to lessen my fear when the time actually came to go to the hospital.

What happened exceeded my most optimistic hopes. The experience was not only painless but most restful as well. They gave me an injection and presently I fell asleep. When I awoke I felt much refreshed and was surprised to learn that my baby had been born hours before.

The doctors and nurses told me that I seemed to know something of what was going on, and answered their questions lucidly, though they could see I was not suffering. But I don't remember anything about that.

I went to the hospital for my next

child's birth with entirely different feelings from those I had the first time, I can assure you. I feel willing now to have any number of children, if I can have them all with the aid of this wonderful new anesthetic.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1936

SURGERY

Caesar Was Not Born by Caesarean Operation

JULIUS Caesar, contrary to widespread belief, was not born by means of a Caesarean operation. Neither did he have anything to do with enactment of the old Roman law that forbade burial of a woman who died in pregnancy before the body of the unborn child had been removed by surgery.

The old myth about Caesar and his birth is exploded by Dr. John Harold Couch of Toronto General Hospital and Herbert Newell Couch, assistant professor of Greek at Brown University, Providence, R. I.

A reason for the persistent linking of Caesar's name with the operation is given by the Couches. (*Canadian Medical Association Journal*, Feb.) The reason is quite the reverse of the traditional belief. Instead of the operation being named for Caesar, Julius Caesar's family probably got their name from it. The Couches explained it as follows:

"It is altogether probable that some distant ancestor of his was born by means of a Caesarean operation, performed on a dead mother, and the cognomen of Caesar, which is derived from the verb *caedo*, to cut, was attached to the newborn child for that reason. Another Roman family, bearing the name Caeso, may have derived their cognomen from the same cause. Such a method of assigning names would be entirely in harmony with the early Roman traditions. In fact, Pliny is the authority for this assumption, for in his *Natural History* he remarks that certain people were born by an incision of the mother and that 'the first of the Caesars' was said to have been born in this manner."

No one knows just who the first of the Caesars was, but he was not the Julius of historic fame. More than a hundred years before this dictator was born there is a record of a Sextus Julius Caesar in Sicily.

Further evidence of the inaccuracy of the old tradition about Julius Caesar's birth is cited by the Couches.

"Not until long after the days of Julius Caesar was the Caesarean operation successfully performed on living women, and it is a matter of historical record that Julius Caesar's mother, Julia, lived for many years after his birth."

Science News Letter, March 7, 1936

MEDICINE

Finds Itch Not Limited To the Poorer Classes

DO NICE people have the itch? Indeed they do, finds Dr. John H. Stokes of Philadelphia, who reports on 53 cases of scabies found among "the better feathered, the silver spooned and the intellectual and professional elect" in his practice.

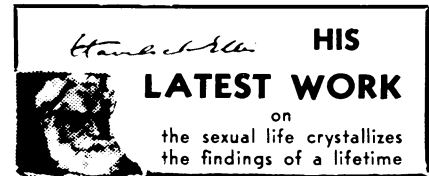
"Scabies may with equal force invade a pedigreed school, Camp Wawa Wawa or the baronial castle on the hill," the Philadelphia physician writes in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (Feb. 29) under the title, "Scabies Among the Well-to-do: Some Principles Illustrated by the Elite."

The late war, current human migrations South in winter and North in summer and the fluidity of present-day populations all contribute toward making the itch an ever-present consideration without social boundaries.

Most of this physician's itching tycoons and subdebs had been to one or more doctors without relief. These doctors, believing that nice people do not have scabies, had not found the little itch-mite that burrows down into the skin and causes all the nocturnal scratchings.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1936

Pocket-size sundials are carried in China as timepieces.



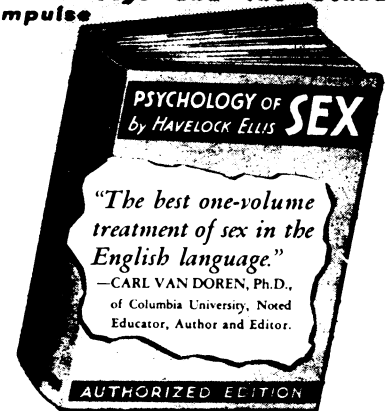
HAVELOCK ELLIS
ON **PSYCHOLOGY OF**

SEX ★

An authentic, comprehensive, concise and modern treatment of the subject by the world's foremost authority

NEW AND CHALLENGING CONCLUSIONS

★ **REGARDING:**
The Art of Love • Sex Life of Unmarried Adults • Sex in Marriage • Sexual Variations and Abnormalities • Sexual Adjustments • Substitutes for Sex • Age and the Sexual Impulse



COMPLETE, UNABRIDGED
389 PAGES • PRICE \$3

Bertrand Russell says:

"Few books on the subject of sex can be so confidently recommended to all and sundry as this, truly admirable volume."

Times Literary Supplement says:

"It is to be hoped that the general reader will take this opportunity under Dr. Ellis's masterly guidance to acquaint himself with the workings of the sexual impulse."

FREE OFFER

Mail this coupon to your bookseller or to
EMERSON BOOKS, INC., Dept. 357-S
333 Sixth Ave., New York City

Send me a copy of this 389-page book for free examination. I will deposit \$3.00 plus a few cents delivery charge when the book arrives. Full purchase price to be refunded, if returned within 5 days.
BOOK MAILED IN PLAIN WRAPPER

Name.....

Address.....

CHECK HERE if you wish to enclose only \$3.00, thus saving delivery charge. (Same money-back guarantee.)