

seen in life, Miss Koller built upon it a quite recognizable likeness of the face that had once been there.

The other test was the more convincing, in that it had even the artists stumped for a time. An ancient Mongolian skull had been brought out of inner Asia, and a sculptor got to work on it. But try as he would, it wouldn't "come out right." The eyes persisted in being too deep-set. Disgusted, the sculptor decided that this job, at least, must be a failure. Then, one day while he was leafing through a collection of racial-type photographs, he jumped as though something had bitten him.

Staring at him out of one of the photographs, in the face of the Chinese general Tai Yen Kai, were a pair of just such deep-set Mongolian eyes!

*Science News Letter, July 18, 1936*

## SEISMOLOGY

## Earthquake is Recorded Near the Philippines

**A** SUBMARINE earthquake occurred south of the Philippine Islands on Sunday, July 5, at 1:54.7 p.m., eastern standard time. Instrumental data, gathered by Science Service and interpreted by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, indicate that the epicenter was at about 2 degrees north latitude, 123 degrees east longitude. This is in the Celebes sea, between the Philippines and the island of Celebes. The shock is reported as a strong one.

Observatories reporting were: the Manila Observatory, Manila, P. I.; the stations of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey at Honolulu, T.H., and Tucson, Ariz.; Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., Fordham University, New York City.

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Recent prospecting in Portugal has revealed the location of some of the old Roman gold mines that have been mysteriously lost for centuries.

## ● RADIO

July 21, 2:15 p.m., E.S.T.

**SOMETHING NEW IN COTTON**—R. W. Webb, Senior Cotton Technologist, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

July 28, 2:15 p.m., E.S.T.

**GROWING UP**—Dr. Paul H. Furfey, Psychologist of the Catholic University of America.

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

## VITAL STATISTICS

# Danger of Being Struck by Lightning is Very Slight

**T**HERE is little chance of being killed by lightning in the United States, for only three persons in every million of the population have been struck down annually by electricity from the sky in the last 10 years.

New figures compiled by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company statisticians show that despite the low general mortality, there are areas, including New Mexico, Arizona, Georgia and Mississippi, where each year about ten persons in a million lose their lives from this cause.

Frequency of thunderstorms is an important factor, but outdoor workers are in much greater danger than city dwellers.

In a city like New York, with many tall buildings built on solidly connected steel skeletons, almost complete protection from death by lightning is afforded not only to the persons within them, but also to those in their vicinity. These tall buildings act as most efficient lightning conductors, partly by dissipating the electric tension without any actual lightning discharge, and partly by receiving the lightning discharge when it does occur, and passing it harmlessly to the ground. It is a matter of relatively common occurrence in thunderstorms for these tall buildings to be struck without the slightest damage to the buildings or their occupants.

### High Rate Belt

There is a continuous band of States, including Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, running from north to south, characterized by annual death rates of six per million and over; another continuous patch of States with these high rates is found in the southeast corner of the United States, including South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. States bordering on these areas also had in most cases higher than average death rates from this cause.

In contrast, the Pacific Coast States and the highly industrialized States of New England and the Middle Atlantic Division ranked as the least hazardous parts of the country as regards fatalities from lightning. Outstanding among the States with low rates may be mentioned California, with a population of ap-

proximately six million, where there have been only five deaths from lightning in a ten-year period studied, and the State of Washington with a population of approximately a million and a half and only eight deaths in the same period.

In the death registration area of the nation during the period 1924-1933 there were recorded 3,849 lightning deaths, the equivalent of 385 per year.

*Science News Letter, July 18, 1936*

## NUTRITION

## Infants Thrive Better on Sodium Citrate Formula

**N**EW-BORN babies get a better start in life when they are fed a special sugar solution and sodium citrate during their first few days, Dr. Howard L. Eder of the Santa Barbara Clinic has found.

The sugar solution, a combination of maltose and dextrin, is already widely used as a supplement to cow's milk in infant feeding. Combining sodium citrate with the sugar solution is the new departure.

In a report to baby specialists, (*Archives of Pediatrics*, June), Dr. Eder states that this solution lessens the weight loss following birth and prevents the acidosis, fever and jaundice which "have been a grave source of concern to the medical profession for many years." Babies given the citrate-sugar mixture regain their birth weight more rapidly, nurse more vigorously and are in generally better condition.

The solution may be used in small institutions or the private home by simply dissolving six level tablespoons of the mixture of sugars and citrate in one quart of boiled water. This solution is given to the new-born infant starting six hours after birth. Two ounces are given every two or three hours for the first five days of life.

With the new treatment the average weight loss of 100 newborn babies was 4.2 ounces, and two-thirds of them had gained this back within the first eight days of life. During the past four years 800 babies have been given this solution and none has developed jaundice or fever.

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