

thorities and the medical profession are to be congratulated upon their success in keeping the death rate of the country at a point so closely approaching the record for the best years of its history.

A matter of special satisfaction is the fact that tuberculosis apparently continues the uninterrupted downward course that it has pursued since the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. While complete figures are not as yet available, it seems clear from those which are at hand that the mortality from this disease will be lower this year than that reported in 1935, even though during the latter part of 1936, the tuberculosis mortality record was not as good as that for the earlier months.

In contrast with our remarkable success against tuberculosis and the communicable diseases of children, we have an unenviable smallpox record this year. Despite the known ease with which this pestilential disease can be controlled, we continue to report each year between six and seven thousand cases of smallpox. Countries like Germany, Belgium, Sweden and Switzerland rarely report a case, and in several other countries the total is less than ten cases per annum.

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#### ARCHAEOLOGY

### Temple Carved from Rock Excavated in Mexican Town

**B**UILDINGS chopped from a single piece of solid mountain form the strangest ancient ruins ever found in Mexico.

They cover an entire summit overlooking the present town of Malinalco, whose name means Place of Twisted Grass, and which is in the state of Mexico, westward from Mexico City.

One structure completely excavated now—the usual temple-topped pyramid—has broad stairs on one side, the steps and wide stone balustrades likewise part of a single piece. Only here and there, where the rock would not reach some far corner of the projected building, did the ancient mason have to fill in nature's lack with artificially cut stone block.

A number of features make this building unusual. One walks into the temple on top through an uninviting door formed by the yawning mouth of a giant stone snake. The temple itself is round, a shape rare in Mexico and one generally associated with the Wind God. A low stone bench follows the wall around inside. The roof, probably of perishable stuff like wood, is gone.



CARVED FROM ROCK

For trimming, this one-piece structure has mainly tigers, snakes and eagles. A carved stone tiger sits on a pedestal by the side of the stairs, his head missing. On either side of the snake-mouth door are carved eagle- and tiger-knights, such as represented the two old Mexican Indian military orders. The one is on a *buehueltl*, or wooden war drum; the other, on a snake's head. In the middle of the round room

of the structure are eagle-head carvings.

Further excavations are now being made at this novel site of Malinalco. These are under the direction of Jose Garcia Payon, Mexican archaeologist, who is finding various other buildings like this one. Some of the stairways still have traces of ancient paintings. This very odd monolithic "city" has ancient drains and sewers which used to protect the buildings when it rained.

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#### BACTERIOLOGY

## New Knowledge to Fight Germ Of Boils and Food Poisoning

### Bacteriologists Hear of New Research on Bone Disease, Undulant Fever and Rating of Germicides

**N**EW knowledge that may help in the fight on the germ of boils, carbuncles, food poisoning and other serious infections was reported at the meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists in Indianapolis.

The germ is the staphylococcus, a small, spherical micro-organism that is found everywhere. Symptoms of staphylococcus infection are due to specific poisons which the germ sets free in the body, Dr. C. E. Dolman of the Connaught Laboratories at Vancouver, B. C.,

pointed out. Certain laboratory animals can be given resistance, by vaccination methods, to doses of this germ that would kill unprotected animals.

For treating generalized infections with staphylococcus Dr. Dolman advises prompt use of antitoxin in order to neutralize the rapidly formed and rapidly spread poisons before they can do fatal damage. The problem of vaccinating against local infections with this germ, such as boils, is complicated by the fact that there (*Turn to page 12*)