HOW IT LOOKS NOW

East portal of the Blue Mountain tunnel in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, which will be used in the super highway through the Alleghany Mountains. There will be nine tunnels totaling seven miles in length.

Seven miles of tunnels through the mountains will save the motorist 10,000 feet in accumulated vertical climb and wherever possible the highway runs on the south side of mountains to facilitate wintertime travel.

Key to the project is the old South Penn Railroad which was laid out some fifty years ago and then abandoned with its nine tunnels half finished. Still in excellent condition the tunnels will be drilled through and ventilated for motor vehicle traffic.

Tunnel Highway, as the road will be known, will have no major highways or railroad crossings at grades. There will be ramp entrances to the highway. Because of the broad curves, low grades and great sight distances it is anticipated that speeds of 50 and 60 miles an hour will be safe on the highway. It is planned that four lanes of traffic will be provided, two in each direction, with a planted center strip providing permanent separation of traffic in the two directions.

All parts of the right-of-way are above the highwater mark of even such floods as that of March, 1936. It is estimated by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways that from five to six hours will be cut from the present running time between the two terminal cities.

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PHARMACY

Stabilization of Drug Plants Should Follow Lead of Foods

FOOD plants were standardized long ago; drug plants should follow their lead. The necessity for this was pointed out by Dr. Arno Viehoever, of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, at the meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association in New York City.

We know to a fractional per cent. how much starch to expect in a given strain of potatoes or how much gluten in a variety of wheat, but the quantity and quality of digitalin in a batch of foxglove is still pretty much a hit-or-miss matter.

This is because food plants have long been carefully bred, and adjusted to the soil and climate of the regions where they are cultivated, whereas drug plants are still either gathered wild in the woods, or if cultivated have not yet been improved by breeding.

Modes of preparation, too, are greatly in need of standardization, Dr. Viehoever declared. Too many drugs are simply dried in the open air, or otherwise made ready for market by grandmothers' methods, despite the fact that machinery for control of temperature, humidity, aeration and other factors has long been in use in other industries, including food preparation, and could be adapted to the drug industry without much difficulty.

Not only is the cultivation of drug plants important. The season when they are gathered, and even the time of day, may affect the quality of the medicines prepared from them.

Decomposition of the drugs by enzyme action must ordinarily be guarded against but in the case of certain drugs such as cascara and possibly digitalis, Dr. Viehoever pointed out, partial decomposition by enzyme action makes the drug a more successful medicine. Scientific pharmaceutical practice must take all these factors into account.

Improves Trench Mouth Remedy

A method of improving sodium perborate, the tooth powder remedy for trench mouth or Vincent's infection and other ails of teeth and gums, was reported by L. L. Manchey and S. Lee of New York.

The harmful effects of this remedy have been attributed to its being too alkaline—the opposite of too acid but equally irritating. The New York pharmacists found that by mixing mono-calcium phosphate with the perborate, they could reduce the alkalinity of the perborate to about that of human saliva. Tests made by applying the new mixture to the gums of human subjects showed that it had no harmful effects.

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●RADIO

August 24, 4:15 p. m., E.S.T.

ADOPTED CHILDREN—Dr. Mandel Sherman, psychologist of the University of Chicago.

August 31, 4:15 p. m., E.S.T.

SOUR WATER—Ralph E. Tarbett of the U. S. Public Health Service.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions over the Columbia Broadcasting System.