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Science News Letter, August 21, 1937

MEDICINE

"Aviator's Ear" Described In Medical Journal

AERO-OTITIS MEDIA—you may have suffered from the condition without knowing what to call it. If you stay on the ground, you'll never have it. Only airplane pilots and passengers are affected.

Capt. Harry G. Armstrong of the U. S. Army Medical Corps and J. W. Heim of the Physiologic Research Laboratory, U. S. Army Air Corps, describe the effects of flight upon the middle ear. (*Journal, American Medical Association, Aug. 7*).

They have christened these ill-effects, once known only as "aviator's ear," as "Aero-otitis media," and term both the acute and chronic conditions a new clinical entity.

The difficulty is caused by the pressure difference between the air in the tympanic cavity and that of the surrounding atmosphere. It occurs during changes of altitude in flying. Its manifestations are inflammation, discomfort and pain in the ear, ringing and deafness. Sometimes in severe cases it affects the facial nerve and its branches, causing a neuralgic-like pain.

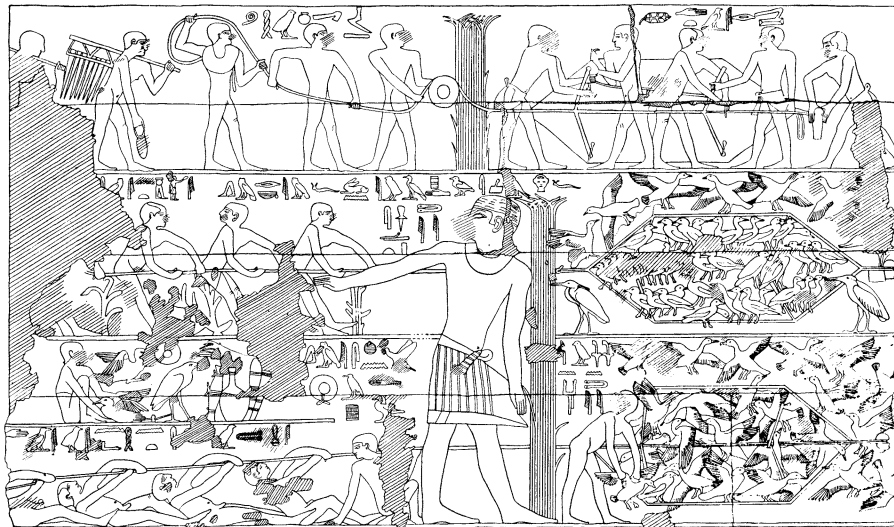
The harmful effects of flight on the middle ear are due to the peculiar structure and functioning of the eustachian tube, Dr. Armstrong and Mr. Heim assert.

If a passenger is inexperienced or ill or asleep or has a bad cold, he may easily experience this difficulty. Trained pilots usually try to avoid flying when they have bad colds because of the discomfort and pain in the ears that almost invariably follow.

The simplest maneuver to ventilate the tympanum and prevent the trouble is to swallow. Yawning, singing, shouting, auto-inflation and contracting the salpingopharyngeal muscles also help.

The last named defies description, these specialists in aviation medicine declare. It can be learned only by stifling a pretended yawn, at which time a roaring in the ears will indicate that the effort is successful.

Science News Letter, August 28, 1937



EGYPTIAN BIRD-TRAPPING SCENE

From the tomb of Ti at Sakkara about 2800 B. C.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Modern Prints Help to Clear Mysteries of Ancient Egypt

Odd System of Bird Netting Found Duplicated on Italian Print; Ancient Game Played by Modern Arabs

TWO baffling points depicted in carvings on Egyptian tombs of the Fifth Dynasty, dating from about 2900 B. C., have been cleared up by a relatively "modern" print from 15th century Italy and by a truly modern photograph in an American magazine.

Experts of the Egyptian department of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts have used these sources to explain the construction of bird traps used by the ancient Egyptians of about 5,000 years ago and to explain a peculiar type of jumping game.

Dows Dunham, associate curator of Egyptian Art, recently went over to the print department of the museum to attend an exhibit of their outstanding works. There he saw a 15th century bird-trapping scene which was strikingly similar to scenes occurring on certain Egyptian tombs of the Fifth Dynasty.

Both bird traps were an intricate system of nets and ropes and stakes so arranged that they came up and overlapped the bird. They moved in a manner like that of old-fashioned outside

cellar doors in rural American homes.

Using the Italian print and the Egyptian tomb carving, Mr. Dunham has now reconstructed a working model of the Egyptian device which in some respects was superior to and more ingenious than the Italian bird trap used thousands of years later.

The modern clue which helped solve the puzzle of high jumping games of Egyptian children came from a recent issue of the National Geographic Society's magazine in which a scene was shown of modern Arab children jumping. Miss Elizabeth Eaton, assistant in the department of Egyptian Art, noted the similarity between the Arab youngsters hurdling their companions and ancient scenes of children playing—scenes dating from Egypt in the Fifth Dynasty.

Characteristic of the youngsters being jumped, was the position of their feet and hands to form the hurdle. Two children sat on the ground facing each other and placed their feet one above the other. Then they placed their hands one above the other atop their feet and