

GEOLOGY

Philippines Become New Source of Manganese

SOOTY black rocks from many places in the Philippine Islands may become a new source of wealth for the Far Eastern commonwealth, as this rock is found to contain manganese, important steel-toughening agent, Ralph Keeler, mining engineer, reports. (*Engineering and Mining Journal*, May)

With an initial production of 255 tons in 1936, output increased to 12,206 tons in 1937, and production is increasing daily as more deposits are located and developed. Occurring in lens-shaped deposits of hard black psilomelane, a mineral that assays 50 per cent. metallic manganese, the ore bodies are worked by hand labor. After preliminary purification the ore is shipped to the sea-coast, for eventual sale to Japan, the United States, and Italy. Japan is the largest buyer of Philippine manganese at present. Mechanized mining is expected greatly to increase the output in the near future.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

College Sports Warned To Avert Greek Fate

THE RISING tide of professionalism in sports at American colleges is viewed with alarm by one university professor who knows well what happened to athletics in ancient Greece.

Early Athenians, it appears, were enthusiastic amateurs at games and competitive sports. They enjoyed exercise. And besides, when war came, the fit citizen was ready to defend the state.

But later, when Athenians fell back on paid soldiers to fight their battles, they lost the civic incentive to be strong and supple. It was pleasanter really to watch several wonder fellows streak down a track or exhibit bulging muscles in a wrestling bout.

So, amateur athletics faded from popularity. And in came the super-specialized professional to take a bow.

Prof. Thomas Woody of the University of Pennsylvania, writing in *School and Society*, warns of the result:

"Professionalism corrupted Greek athletics, destroyed its vital spirit, and made sports unserviceable both to individuals and to Greek society. It will do the same today."

When athletics became a career, he explains, too much stress was laid on winning. One Greek professional stored

up 1,400 prizes. To make prize money and win public fame, striving professionals and their trainers stooped to buy and sell victories.

The games at Olympia remained conspicuously fair and upheld amateurism. But even Olympic athletes had to be fined for trading victories.

Leaders like Galen deplored the lowering of physical standards. The Greek crowds were idolizing professionals like the boxers, who were over-stuffed and dull and enslaved to a treadmill routine.

In Corinth, Diogenes went so far as to crown himself with a pine wreath; and defended his award by arguing that he had conquered far greater antagonists than the wrestlers, for he had fought poverty, disrepute, anger, fear, pain, desire, and the most redoubtable beast—pleasure. But the Greeks did not heed.

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ENTOMOLOGY

Wet Weather Delays Grasshopper Emergence

GRASSHOPPERS in the danger zones of the West are still being held in winter quarters, as unhatched eggs, by the frequent barrages of rain that have swept the whole central part of the country this spring.

There has been no great amount of egg mortality, field workers of the U. S. Department of Agriculture informed Science Service, but while the hatching has been delayed, the crops in the grain belt and the grasses of the rangelands farther west have been taking advantage of the moisture to get a long head start.

Another effect is hoped for by the government scientists. If there is plenty of provender in the open grasslands of the West, the 'hoppers that hatch there may have enough to feed on near their hatching-places and will therefore not migrate toward the costlier grain fields.

In the meantime, the fighting forces in the field, well prepared with millions of pounds of arsenic-poisoned bait, are biding their time. As soon as the first swarms of little 'hoppers emerge and begin to crawl, they will spread their tempting but lethal banquet before them. In parts of the Southwest, from southern California across to western Texas, the new crop of grasshoppers is emerging, and the poison squads are already at work.

This year, for once, the defense forces of scientists and farmers have got the drop on the enemy.

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IN SCIENCE

GEOLOGY

Record Quartz Crystal Travels 7,000 Miles

ENDING an odyssey of more than 7,000 miles on muleback, boat, and railroad, a 63-pound perfect quartz crystal, one of the largest and finest ever mined, arrived at the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, N. Y., from a mine on the flanks of the Serra de Mantiquiera, in the province of Minas Geraes, 1500 miles from the Brazilian seacoast.

Found in a region famous for its gem stone output, this giant crystal of quartz, a dioxide of silicon, chemically identical with ordinary sand, will be used in the manufacture of special lenses for microscopes. Quartz, unlike glass, passes ultraviolet light, commonly used to secure extreme magnifications. Scrap quartz of high quality, left over from lens and prism manufacture, is used as part of the "melt" in making optical glass.

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CHEMISTRY

Marston T. Bogert To Receive Priestley Medal

PROF. Marston Taylor Bogert, one of the nation's leading organic chemists and for 44 years a member of the faculty of Columbia University, has been awarded the Priestley Gold Medal of the American Chemical Society.

The medal, highest honor in chemistry, is granted once in three years. It was established in honor of Joseph Priestley, discoverer of oxygen in 1774. Priestley was raised in England but came to America late in life to escape hostility to his views as a nonconformist preacher.

Prof. Bogert will receive the award at the fall meeting of the chemical society, to be held in Milwaukee, Wis.

Alone, and in collaboration with his many students, Prof. Bogert is the author of more than 400 papers in synthetic organic chemistry. He has twice been president of the American Chemical Society and is an honorary member of many foreign scientific societies.

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E FIELDS

ASTRONOMY

Star Believed Closest Demoted From This Honor

WOLF 424 has been demoted from its recently proclaimed position as the nearest fixed star in the heavens. (See *SNL*, May 21)

A short time ago Dr. G. P. Kuiper of the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory, found from the star's spectrum that it had the very large parallax of eight or nine tenths of a second, which meant that it was relatively close to the earth. Now Dr. D. Reuhl of the University of Virginia's Leander McCormick Observatory, using photographs of 1925 and 1926, has found by the trigonometric method a preliminary parallax of only one-quarter that determined at Yerkes.

This means that instead of Wolf 424 being nearest star, there are more than 30 stars which are our nearer neighbors in space.

A year from now a better parallax will be obtainable through continued McCormick Observatory observations.

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MEDICINE

No Need to Worry Over Cancer From a Blow

MOST laymen and women—especially women—have worried over the possibility of cancer arising from a blow or other injury they have sustained. Of if cancer has developed, the patient or his friends and relatives are more than likely to ascribe it to a recent injury.

Such fears are groundless, in the opinion of leading cancer authorities. Dr. George T. Pack, of The Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York City, explained why in a recent report to the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

Cancer of the breast, he pointed out, is most frequently considered by the laity to be caused by an injury. This is natural because of its susceptibility to injury. However, the cases which can be fairly said to have originated in injury are "much too small to carry weight,"

Dr. Pack said. The same is true for cancer of the bone. The number of cases where injury could possibly be accepted as the cause is so small as to make it "impossible to accept this theory of origin. In only one of the eight common varieties of bone sarcoma," Dr. Pack continued, "does trauma or injury have a possible influence."

He added further that none of the available evidence bears out the lay fear that cancer of the internal organs can be attributed to injury, or trauma, to use the medical term.

"Perhaps the best way to set the minds of the public at rest," Dr. Pack stated, "is to consult the records of the Great War. Surely the trauma was great enough and frequent enough and if it could cause cancer, there should be evidence to support or else deny the claim. It is encouraging to discover that the percentage of tumors among war veterans is no greater than among the civilian population and that there has been no significant increase in the incidence of tumors since the war."

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BIOLOGY

New Funds Make Available Biological Abstracts

THE journal of brief summaries on which biologists depend for condensed information, *Biological Abstracts*, has resumed publication, it is announced. The abstract journal had been compelled to suspend publication some months ago because of shortage of funds. New resources have been opened up which will enable the board of editors to catch up with unfinished work and carry on with the regular schedule. (*Science*, May 20)

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GEOGRAPHY

Springtime in the Rockies Poses for the Camera

See Front Cover

NAVAJO PEAK, rising 13,300 feet above sea level on the Continental Divide in Colorado, silhouetted against the rising cloud of a local storm at the beginning of the Rocky Mountain spring, which begins in early June.

That is the picture shown on the front cover of this week's *SCIENCE NEWS LETTER*, taken by Ronald L. Ives, *Science Service* geology writer.

The valley in the foreground once contained a great glacier, whose source, 30,000 years ago or so, was an ice mass near the horizon.

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BOTANY

Quintuplet Trilliums Found Near Washington

QUINTUPLET trilliums, almost as great a rarity among flowers as quintuplet babies are among our own species, were found growing on a single stem in the mountains near Washington, D. C., by two Washington botanists, Dr. Titus Ulke and Theodore Ruhoff. The specimen has been turned over to the U. S. National Herbarium, and Dr. Ulke expects to publish a technical description of the plant in a botanical journal soon.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Ford's Ideas in Gathering Historic Relics Explained

HENRY FORD'S ideas of how to make an historic museum, as exemplified by his big museum and early American village at Dearborn, Michigan, were described to the American Association of Museums.

Mr. Ford's interest in accumulating historic objects—he has 100 original steam engines—is not merely an antiquarian hobby, declared Fred L. Black of the museum staff at Dearborn. One purpose is to show the public how far and how fast we have come in technical progress in the past century.

The 100 steam engines, most of them in running order, show development of steam power from a Newcomen atmospheric pressure engine made in 1760 to modern types. The development of the telephone, generators, television, the plow and the churn are other lessons from history which the museum teaches by series of actual objects once used.

Transporting historic shops and cottages to the early American village was undertaken, Mr. Black explained, because of the difficulty of preserving many of these buildings where they originally stood. Many were far off the beaten track. The village, assembled and furnished, enables visitors to enter the America of bygone days, to see the village blacksmith, postman, and other character types at work.

The bicycle shop where the Wright brothers made their first airplane and the house they lived in were both moved board by board and brick by brick from Dayton, Ohio, and furnished as nearly as possible in the 1903 state.

Unlike Williamsburg, Virginia, the village does not reconstruct one limited period of American life.

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