

MEDICINE

Migraine Headaches Stopped By Breathing Pure Oxygen

Mayo Clinic Tries Method Devised by Layman for the Relief of a Relative; Fails on Non-Migraine Aches

OXYGEN tanks and gas masks are coming to the rescue of migraine headache sufferers.

Breathing pure oxygen brings prompt relief from these prostrating headaches, for which no generally satisfactory treatment has yet been found, Dr. Walter C. Alvarez of the Mayo Clinic announces.

The idea of using oxygen came from a layman, Charles E. Rhein of the Linde Air Products Company. For two years, Mr. Rhein told the Mayo Clinic physicians, he had been checking the severe migraine attacks of one of his relatives by having her breathe pure oxygen. She was a patient whom Dr. Alvarez had previously been unable to help by any known form of treatment.

Using the mask devised by Drs. Walter Boothby, W. Randolph Lovelace and A.

L. Bulbulian of the Mayo Clinic, which is now being installed on transport planes for use at high altitudes, Dr. Alvarez tried oxygen inhalations for other migraine patients.

In one case inhalation of oxygen for one hour brought prompt relief. Another patient who had had frequent migraine attacks for years has not had a bad headache since she has started breathing oxygen at the beginning of a spell.

Headaches which are not typically migrainous, however, are not helped.

Cost of the treatment after initial expense of the inhalation apparatus is not much and with the Boothby-Lovelace-Bulbulian mask patients can talk, and if not too badly prostrated, can sit up and read or do some work.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1939

PSYCHOLOGY

Propaganda Found Necessary In Fight Against Prejudice

AT THE scientist who attempts to apply his science not only to material things but to the relations between people and nations, there is often flung the charge that it is not within the province of the scientist to deal with general values and judgment of those values. Some such criticisms come from

those who do not want to be bothered by rational and scientific facts. In others, the desire for such diffidence and detachment is, as the late Dr. William Alanson White observed psychiatrically, frequently a mask for fantasies of omnipotence and omniscience.

A group of psychiatrists have been giving expression to values and techniques of thinking as they impinge upon present day relationship between persons as individuals or as groups. Some readers of this quarterly, "Psychiatry", charge that the journal is engaged in propaganda or has mixed politics and psychiatry.

Because this conflict of opinion is by no means confined to either the limited field of psychiatry or the broad field of science, the following excerpted statements are good medicine for a mentally disturbed world:

"No science of inter-personal relations can ignore such dynamic factors as striv-

ings towards truth, beauty, and humanity. Neither can any psychiatrist avoid manifesting valuing judgments in his participant observation of his patients. He strives towards objective evaluating, as contrasted with the conventional unnoticed acting out of irrational prejudice.

"Propaganda is a powerful force in modern life; all the more powerful because people are so generally ignorant of its techniques. The psychiatrist has to avoid the influence of pervasive propaganda and to remedy its more pernicious effects on his patients. He must therefore understand propaganda processes. Also, in so far as the psychiatrist is interested in hygienic reform, he must know how to make effective benevolent propaganda as a necessary preliminary to the spread of national enlightenment. If he cannot do this, he is impotent to deal with entrenched prejudice."

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METEOROLOGY

Rain in the Desert Makes Dry Washes Raging Streams

See Front Cover

RAIN in the desert impedes travel but rewards the tourist for his wait by unforgettable beauty.

The photograph of this sight which appears on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is from the new book *Water—Wealth or Waste* by William Clayton Pryor and Helen Sloman Pryor (Harcourt, Brace).

Science News Letter, April 22, 1939

"There never was a time when archaeology was so immediately useful to the student of the Bible as now," declares Prof. W. F. Albright of the Johns Hopkins University, commenting on discoveries regarding long-lost Canaanite culture.

Queen Elizabeth's court physician is credited with writing the first book exclusively about dogs.

Tall Tales of Small Caves

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● RADIO

Dr. Peter C. Goldmark, director of the CBS television programs, will be the guest scientist on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, Director, Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Monday, May 1, 4:45 EST, 5:45 EDST, 3:45 CST, 2:45 MST, 1:45 PST. Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Monday.