

absurdly nationalistic issue. For most Danes favor the extermination theory, and most Norwegians the one of amalgamation.

Stefansson provides good ammunition for the amalgamation theory: A plague would have weakened Eskimos as well as beleaguered Norse. Malnutrition would hardly have beset Norsemen who fell back on the same meat diet on which Eskimos thrive; but on the contrary a mixed diet of imported food and meat handled in European manner might have diet deficiencies. And certain observers who reported the Norse extinct may have misunderstood what they saw.

Science News Letter, June 17, 1939

MEDICINE

Lack of Vitamin C May Be a Cause of Food Allergy

LACK of the scurvy-preventing vitamin C from citrus and other fruits and fresh vegetables may be one cause of food allergy, Drs. J. Bronfenbrenner, D. M. Hetler, Frances Love and Jack M. Burnett of St. Louis announced.

People with food allergy are the "one man's meat is another man's poison" folks. Eating tiny amounts of certain foods, most often eggs, milk or wheat, gives these patients severe attacks of asthma, hives, migraine headaches or other allergic ailments. Treatment with ascorbic acid, as vitamin C is now called, may enable these people to eat the foods to which they are sensitive.

Guinea pigs furnish the evidence for this theory. Pigs made sensitive to egg white could eat this food when they were given the vitamin. When the vitamin was removed from their diet, practically 100 per cent. of the animals developed allergic symptoms when fed egg white. If enough vitamin was given to these animals over a period of weeks, they could eat the egg white, although hypodermic injections of it showed they were still sensitive to the substance.

Science News Letter, June 17, 1939

MEDICINE

Kidney, Heart and Artery Ailments Analyzed

EVERY other person in the United States past 50 years of age dies of diseases of heart, blood vessels and kidneys. That statement and an analysis of the problem was presented by Drs. F. W. Konzelman, Lawrence W. Smith, Edw. Weiss, Walter I. Lillie and Edwin S. Gault of Philadelphia at the recent meeting of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Since the average age of the population is getting older, more and more people are reaching the period at which these degenerative diseases take their toll.

The cardiovascular renal diseases, as listed by the Philadelphia physicians, are: 1. high blood pressure, without previous kidney disease, resulting in diffuse hardening of the arteries; 2. atherosclerosis, a special kind of hardening of the arteries which is a senile degenerative process affecting the large blood vessels and their branches; 3. the kidney ailment, glomerulonephritis, in which the kidney disease is primary and the high blood pressure secondary; and 4. a combination of these conditions, especially of the first and second.

With this as a background, the Philadelphia doctors list the main causes of death from cardiovascular renal diseases after age 45 as follows: 1. heart failure and hardening and blockage of the heart's arteries accounts for 50 per cent.; 2. hemorrhage, blockage or other accidents to the blood vessels of the brain, familiar to the layman as apoplexy and "stroke," accounts for from 30 per cent to 40 per cent.; 3. kidney failure with uremia accounts for 10 per cent.

In childhood, adolescence and early adult life, rheumatic fever, syphilis and other infections are chiefly responsible

for the damage to heart, blood vessels and kidneys. In middle life syphilis is the chief villain. In older life it is the degenerative diseases which weaken the structure and impair the functions of the vital organs.

About half of all those over 50 years who die of cardio-vascular renal diseases have had high blood pressure. One-half of all women who have toxemia of pregnancy will within five years develop high blood pressure or chronic kidney disease. The younger the person who develops heart, blood vessel and kidney ailments, and the higher the diastolic blood pressure, the less favorable is the prognosis.

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never before been recognized as a cause of human illness, although it has been found in other animals.

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Study Brain in Operation

BRAIN wave studies can now be taken directly from the patient's brain as it lies exposed on the operating table. A method of doing this under aseptic conditions and the results of such studies were reported by Drs. Ernest Sachs, Henry G. Schwartz and Alan S. Kerr of St. Louis.

Brain tumors, tumors of the pituitary gland, hydrocephalus (water on the brain) and Meniere's disease were the conditions studied with this new technic. Tumor tissue itself is not electrically active, the St. Louis doctors reported. Characteristic waves of high amplitude and slow frequency were found in tissue overlying or adjacent to a tumor. More marked activity was noted in the record from tissue overlying a cerebellar tumor than from a similar area of the brain in a patient with Meniere's disease. In one case of hydrocephalus, no electrical activity could be discovered until after release of the fluid in the ventricles.

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Although a cow "mows" with mouth only three inches wide, she can gather in 150 pounds of herbage in a good day.

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