

celeration of meteors which flash briefly in the area about 30 to 60 miles above the earth.

At heights of 70 miles above the earth the temperature is found to be 20 degrees Centigrade, ordinary room temperature.

The basic principle of Dr. Whipple's apparatus is to revolve a fan blade in front of a telescope-camera lens in such a way that if a meteor flashes down across the field of view, its fiery path is broken at measured intervals. This gives an indication of speed and deceleration. One such thermometer is located at Harvard Observatory in Cambridge, while the other is at Harvard's Oak Ridge station, 24 miles away.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## METALLURGY

## Rustless Steel Effective At Very High Temperatures

**H**OT steel news from England: Rustless steels have been produced which maintain a reasonably protective film at temperatures in excess of 1,000 degrees Centigrade and at the same time have useful strength. This will be important to the chemical industry. Dr. W. H. Hatfield, director of the Brown-Firth Research Laboratories, Sheffield, reports this accomplished by modifying the chromium and nickel in steel compositions and also by adding other elements, such as tungsten, molybdenum, cobalt and titanium.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

There are more miles of highway in Michigan than in all of China.

## MEDICINE

# Doctors Cure One Ailment But Report New Menace

## Baby Is Saved From Influenzal Meningitis With Drug; Worker on False Teeth Develops Silico-Tuberculosis

**S**UCCESS in treating one ailment and the discovery of a new industrial health menace are reported to the American Medical Association.

A two-year-old baby girl suffering with influenzal meningitis recovered after treatment with sulfapyridine, widely hailed for its pneumonia-curing properties. Influenza itself has so far failed to yield to either this drug or related chemicals such as sulfanilamide.

"We knew of no published report of this type of meningitis in which treatment with sulfapyridine had been successful, but it seemed advisable to try it," Drs. Tom R. Hamilton and Frank C. Neff, of the University of Kansas Hospitals, state in their report.

Other types of meningitis have been successfully treated with sulfanilamide and there was no other specific remedy to try. The little girl, arriving at the hospital after a 100-mile ambulance trip from her home in Waverly, Kans., in a prostrated condition with high fever and other dangerous symptoms, was much better after four days of sulfapyridine treatment. After a week she was well enough to go home and recovered com-

pletely within 16 days after the start of her illness.

The new industrial menace, reported by Dr. Louis Siltzbach, of New York City, is the danger of silicosis, the lung disease that threatens workers in "dusty trades," attacking dental technicians who polish false teeth with pumice or the substitute known as "pummy."

A young Russian Jewish immigrant paid with his life for this knowledge which may save thousands of his fellows who polish with pumice or "pummy" from a similar fate. For 19 years, from the time he left school at the age of 16, he worked at polishing dentures in a dental laboratory. Because of the large

## HOW THEY GROW

*Even the deer hunter seldom witnesses the whole cycle of antler growth during the summer months. From W. N. Dirks, amateur naturalist of Oakland, Calif., come these pictures which show how rapidly the growth takes place. On April 15, pedicles arose on the frontal bone of the deer and the summits of these pedicles became filled with a network of blood vessels, and a bony secretion became deposited (left). The other two pictures were taken on May 5 and May 25.*

