

MEDICINE

Nine Battle Lines Marked in Anti-Pneumonia War Plan

Disease Still Ranks High Among Common Causes of Death In United States and Many Other Countries; Vaccine Used

ANTI-PNEUMONIA war plans with nine battle lines marked on them appear in a new book on pneumonia by one of the anti-pneumonia war chiefs, Dr. Roderick Heffron, medical associate of the Commonwealth Fund and former director of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health pneumonia study and service.

"The disease continues to rank high among the common causes of death in this and many other countries," Dr. Heffron states, although he points out the progress made in the fight against it, especially during the last 20 or 30 years.

Sulfapyridine and other new chemical remedies have been used successfully in treating many cases of pneumonia, but more intensive study of these chemical remedies and of enzymes in treatment of pneumonia is needed. Hope of finding an outstanding chemical remedy for this ailment is greater than ever before, but the battles on this front must be fought to a finish, it is suggested.

Production of still better serums for treatment and standardization of serums for both treatment and for typing are three points in Dr. Heffron's war plans. Serum treatment has not yet been entirely replaced by chemical remedies.

Chemical remedies may become completely effective treatment for the disease, but none so far affects resistance to the invasion of pneumonia germs. A vaccine to do this appears to be at hand. Results

from its use on many thousands of men in C.C.C. camps show that it is worth trying on a selected group of civilians. This is another battle line for the future.

The other four are planned to learn more about the enemy—the nature of the germs, whom they attack and when and where and which healthy persons carry them.

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PSYCHOLOGY—ARCHAEOLOGY

Discoveries Show Ancients Used 'War of Nerves' Too

DISCOVERY that fire-signals are as old as wars of 2000 B. C., and helped to throw ancient kings into jitters, has been made by a French scholar reading documents unearthed in a royal palace at Mari, Syria.

The first modern man to read of the war scare in the ancient capital, Georges Dossin, finds that the king of Mari was alarmed over a pending revolt of the Benjaminite tribe, and that an official scout reported that a great deal of fire-signaling was going on among the people, from town to town.

That the king was in a state of nerves from the fiery goings-on is evident in a later report, in which the official says that the Benjaminites have started their revolt, and he has been doing some fire-signaling of his own to call the king's troops to duty. Not too tactfully, the report ends:

"Perhaps these fires have made the heart of my Lord tremble. The heart of my Lord may rest in peace."

The war reports are addressed to the king's secretary, the inference being that his majesty could not read. One of the ancient military notes says in full:

"To my Lord tell this: Thus speaks your slave Banum. Yesterday from Mari I went out and towards Zuruban I carried my night's rest. All the Benjaminites lifted on high the fire signs. From Samanum to Ilum-Muluk as far as Mislan all the cities of the Benjaminites in the district of Terqa lifted up their torches in answer. So far I could not ascertain the meaning of these signs. This meaning I will ascertain now and whether it is so or not my Lord, I shall write. The watchmen of the town Mari are to be increased and my Lord should not go out beyond the walls."

The military documents have value, besides showing early use of fire-signaling for commands and messages, in that they provide evidence that Abraham lived earlier than scholars have supposed. They reveal that a tribe of Benjamin, apparently one of the 12 tribes founded by Israel's sons, was a numerous band sojourning north of Palestine as early as 2000 B. C. Since the line of descent passed from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob, or Israel, to his 12 sons, this would indicate that Abraham lived about 200 years earlier than has generally been assumed.

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ENGINEERING

Antarctic Snow Cruiser To Have Trial Road Trip

FIRST long trip of the Antarctic dinosaur, the snow cruiser to be used on the U. S. Antarctic expedition, will be a shake-down cruise over roads from Chicago where it was designed and built under the direction of Dr. Thomas C. Poulter at the Armour Institute of Technology's Research Foundation to Boston where it will run aboard one of the expedition's ships, setting sail toward the South Pole about Nov. 1. Before this thousand mile run, the giant land-craft will bounce over sand dunes of Indiana, closest approach to ice and snow in U. S. A. October. It will also scurry over a 15-foot ditch as a synthetic crevasse.

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The newest passenger sea planes weigh about 80,000 pounds when ready for trans-oceanic flight, but 200,000 pound flying boats are in prospect.

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