

ONE OUT OF TWELVE GET HOSPITAL CARE

Survey Gets Data on Cost of Medical Treatment.

Washington.—More than 10,000,000 persons, or approximately one in every twelve inhabitants, are treated each year in the hospitals of the United States, according to figures cited in "a survey of statistical data on medical facilities in the United States" prepared by Dr. Alton Peebles for the committee on the costs of medical care.

Latest figures in possession of the committee also show that inhabitants of the United States spend an average of more than two days a year each in bed in hospitals.

Five-Year Study Plan.

The survey of medical facilities is part of a five-year study being made by the committee on the costs of medical care under the chairmanship of Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur. Its purpose is to study the problem of the "delivery of adequate, scientific medical service to all the people, rich and poor, at a cost which can be reasonably met by them in their respective stations in life."

Altogether there are at present over 900,000 hospital beds in the United States, the survey indicates. This includes beds of all kinds—for medical, surgical, mental, tubercular and other types of cases. There are, besides, more than 49,000 bassinets for newborn infants.

Many Persons Employed.

It was found by a study made by a committee ranging from 100,000 to 300,000 in population that for every 100 hospital beds there are two internes, seven graduate nurses, twenty-nine student nurses and two attendants.

Including physicians, dentists, druggists, midwives and other practitioners and all the other types of workers in the field of health, hygiene and disease, the business of curing illness and maintaining health employs nearly 1,500,000 persons in the United States. About 600,000 of these are employed in hospitals.

Pecos River Is Dubbed Pirate of U. S. Streams

San Antonio, Texas.—The Pecos river of west Texas, arch pirate of the ages, may eventually change the stream pattern of mid-continent America, R. B. Campbell, petroleum geologist, believes.

Campbell has pointed out that the Pecos has already "beheaded" the Colorado and Brazos rivers by taking over their tributaries.

When the Canadian river is "beheaded," there will be a third river skeleton stretching its dry framework over the western plains. In ages to come, the Pecos may behead the Arkansas and South Platte river, robbing the Father of Waters of some of its contribution from the eastern slopes of the Rockies, Campbell declared.

Lily Raises Din as It Grows 5 Feet Overnight

Irvine, N. J.—For eleven years Mrs. Elizabeth Arnold has had a berserk lily, a native of Mexico, in which she takes great pride because of its rapid growth. Frequently the plant will shoot up, in true Mexican style, four or five feet in as many days.

For some time it had been somnolent, buried in earth in a peach basket, with not a speck of green showing. The other night she left it in an enclosed porch with a tin pan inverted over the basket. Early next morning she was awakened by a terrific clatter and ran downstairs. The berserk lily had shot up to a height of five feet, hurling the tin pan into a corner, and a blossom as big as a man's head.

Economy Fails to Hit

Detroit Postoffice Cats

Detroit.—Government pay rolls and salaries may be slashed in economy measures, but the post office casts of Detroit will continue to draw their rations, provided for in the miscellaneous fund. The cats are provided to keep mice out of mail containing food-stuff, and also to keep up the morale of the women clerks.

Hunter Shoots Hawk and Bags Fat Rabbit

Mt. Carmel, Pa.—Tom Price of Slatington shot at a hawk high above his head and brought down a rabbit, he claims. At the same time he bagged his hawk.

Price reported he saw the hawk fly about 35 feet in the air. He fired. The hawk plumped at his feet. In its alons was a fat rabbit.

Boulder Dam Workers Must Wear "Tin Hats"

Las Vegas, Nev.—War equipment is a vague at Boulder City, near where workmen are constructing the Boulder dam. Fifty dozen "tin hats" have been ordered by the Six Companies, Inc., for every man on the job. None of the workmen will be allowed in the canon bottom without one of the hats. Falling rocks have done damage to heads, they say.

Hiccupping Stopped

Seattle, Wash.—George C. Lawrence, fifty-four, contractor, hiccupped continuously four days. The ailment was stopped by sodium amygdalin, which has been used with success in several parts of the country.

HOW

HARVEST MOON IN SKIES OBEYS A NATURAL LAW.—Owing to the advantages derived from moonlight during the time of harvest in England, the Harvest moon's coming is always celebrated as a festival among the peasantry, who devoutly believe that the so-called Harvest moon is nothing more nor less than a divine interposition in their behalf, prolonging the light and thus aiding them in gathering the harvest, but astronomy has shown that the seeming phenomenon is simply the result of a neutral law in the realm of that science.

If the moon moved in the celestial equator it would rise and set directly in the east and west, respectively, and rise later each night at almost a constant interval, but it moves in a path always inclined to the ecliptic at an angle of about 43 degrees and, therefore, in all parts of its orbit does not rise at equal intervals on each succeeding night except at the time of the autumnal equinox, in the latter part of September, when the sun being in the constellation Virgo and the full moon opposite the sun, in Pisces, it rises at sunset at virtually the same time on several successive evenings. While during that time it has advanced in its orbit about 12 or 13 degrees, its path being very oblique to the horizon, it will appear but little below its position at the same time the following evening and, therefore, rising only a little later, appearing in the east at nearly the same time after sunset on several successive nights.

How Gas From Volcanoes Produces Common Salt

The Manchester (England) Guardian is always digging up quaint and unusual bits of information. For years, in fact, from infancy, we have been going around asking who put salt into the sea. And now we find out, says the Guardian:

"The next time we get a mouthful of unpalatable salt water while sea bathing we should lay the blame for our feeling sick on the world's volcanoes—according to an interesting conclusion arrived at by Dr. T. A. Jaggar, director of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory and a volcanologist of international eminence. Doctor Jaggar reckons that at least 485 active volcanoes are jetting forth in the course of a year more than 100,000,000 tons of hydrochloric acid, which rises as a gas mingled with the steam. Merging with the water vapor forming clouds, it falls with the rains and unites with the sodium in the rivers to form sodium chloride, or common salt."

How Wood Is Fireproofed

Can you imagine wood that will not burn? As a matter of fact there is no known wood that will not burn in the natural state. But Dr. P. G. von Hildebrand, the well known chemist and former German citizen who has experimental laboratories at Springfield, near Pittsburgh, has discovered a way to treat any kind of wood to make it fireproof, as strong as steel and as light as aluminum. He can even take chips and other waste pieces of lumber and by a process of cooking the wood into a pulp produce materials which he claims can be used in the place of metals, bricks and asbestos. First he chips the wood into small pieces, cooks or grinds it into fiber, then presses it back into lumber of the fireproof variety.—Ex-change.

How Kangaroo Guards Young

Like the partridge that with drooping wing leads her pursuers a merry chase in a direction away from the place in which her chicks are hidden among the grasses, the kangaroo mother practices strategy to protect her young when she is being pursued by dogs. When the kangaroo is carrying a baby in her pouch she cannot move as much speed as otherwise. When she sees that the dogs are gaining on her she will drop her little one in the grass and start off in a new direction to attract attention away from it. If she is successful in eluding her pursuers she will return later by a circuitous route to recover her baby.

How Fish Sleep

Fish cannot close their eyes and therefore they are unable to sleep in the ordinary sense of that term as applied to mammals, says Pathfinder Magazine. According to the Bureau of Fisheries, however, experiments with special apparatus indicate that fish are more active at certain times and that these periods of activity are followed by periods of repose. Such periods of inactivity, which are variable in degree, may be comparable to sleep in the sense of physiological rest.

How to Clean Pearls

One method of cleaning pearls is to hang them for a couple of minutes in hot strong wine vinegar, then remove, and rinse them in water. If left too long in the vinegar they will be injured.

How Cobweb Got Name

Cob is an old name for spider, hence the origin of the word cobweb.

Imagination Goes Far

With the Superstitious
No matter how intelligent we are by nature, or how reasonable and wise we may become with the experiences of years, man never quite loses his fear of the supernatural—not belief in its manifestations, regardless of how exalted his circumstances and conditions. An instance has just been reported from Moncalieri, near Turin, where a young couple, setting up housekeeping, had just moved into a dwelling which had been unoccupied for some months. No sooner had they established themselves in these quarters than all sorts of mysterious and astonishing, as well as terrifying noises became audible. Doors shut and opened of their own accord; windows rattled; vapors of unknown source moved here and there; now and then the strains of music, or of shrill whistling were heard. These experiences were so alarming that next day the trembling pair sought the aid of the police. A gendarme, stationed there the next night, insisted strenuously that he heard all the various commotions, too, and not only that, but actually saw a weird shape floating about to be compared with nothing he had ever witnessed before. Which all goes to prove that superstitions, if not native to the individual, are at least contagious, and may be acquired and entertained even by the most staid and unimaginative of the population.—Il Messaggero, Rome.

Importance of Grasses in Man's Advancement

Civilization has been built directly upon one or another of the cereal grasses, supplemented in some cases with pasture grasses according to a professor of Berkeley University, Calif. Cereal grasses changed man from a nomad to a settler. Even the calendar and social life was made necessary by the cultivation of cereal grasses. In 2700 B. C., the Chinese instituted the symbolic ceremony of sowing five useful plants each year, these being rice, wheat, sorghum, millet and the legume, soy beans. In Egypt, barley and millet were produced as early as 4000 B. C. On the American continent, civilization is practically synonymous with one grass, maize or Indian corn. The greatest portion of the dry land surface of the earth is occupied by grasses.

Crossing the Line'

In the modern ceremony of crossing the equator Neptune appears carrying a trident with his attendants, among whom is the barber, carrying a huge razor and tub. Neptune is accompanied by Amphitrite. A sheep pen lined with canvas and filled with water is prepared. The victim is seated on a platform laid over this and blindfolded. First he is shaved by the barber, then plunged backward into the water. It was formerly the custom to attach the victim to a rope and dip him into the sea.

Message Made History

When war broke out between Spain and the United States it was very necessary to communicate quickly with Garcia, the leader of the insurgents. He was somewhere in the mountain fastnesses of Cuba, no one knew where. No mail or telegram could reach him. Rowan was sent for and given a letter to be delivered to Garcia. He accepted the mission without question and delivered the letter. The message to Garcia was pertaining to co-operation with the United States army.

Ancient Toys Dug Up

A little girl's grave in a cemetery about 4,000 years old, dug up in Persia by scientists, yielded, among other things, small figurines carved like cows and sheep. Excavations in the cemetery unearthed remains of children with miniature dishes, as well as those of men and women with cups, bowls and pitchers. Translucent and banded alabaster vessels, burnished gray and black pottery, bracelets, anklets and finger rings were also found.

Medieval Churches

Four churches of medieval period can be seen by visitors to Berlin, in spite of the common impression that the German capital is a comparatively young city. The youngest of the four, which stands in Klosterstrasse, has been restored to its original form. This church was erected by Franciscan monks of the Gray Cloister, in 1290, and is said to be one of the oldest monuments of Gothic architecture in northern Germany.

Well-Watered Country

In Venezuela rainfall varies from less than one inch a month in the dry season to as much as five inches a month in the rainy season. In addition Venezuela is particularly well endowed with rivers. The country has more than 1,000 rivers. About 250 rivers empty into the Caribbean sea, while some 200 flow into Lake Maracaibo. Included among its streams is the Orinoco, one of the great rivers of the world.

Secretary of Congress

In the Continental congresses there was one official, called the secretary of the congress, as the Continental congress was a unicameral body. Charles Thompson of Pennsylvania acted in this capacity throughout 15 sessions in eight cities and under 14 presidents of the congress. He served from September 5, 1774, until January 22, 1788.

WHY

Auto Drivers Should Take Rigid Visual Tests

Red and green were chosen for the stop and go signals of our traffic system probably because they had been used for years in maritime traffic to indicate the port and lee side of ships, says a recent bulletin of the Better Vision Institute. And the reason for their use at sea was that even before the days of science, the rays of red and green lights were found by experience to pierce fogs and mists better than the rays of other lights. But it is unfortunate that the most common form of color blindness is the confusion of red and green, eight persons out of every hundred, according to a recent survey, being unable to distinguish between the two.

"When men for generations were accustomed to living and working outdoors," continues the bulletin, "color blindness was more rare. Red and green for ship's lights could be distinguished by almost anyone, and even if a mistake were made the consequences were not as disastrous as they are today on land, in this age of speed." Color blindness explains why a great many accidents occur in which motorists have driven through signal lights. That is one of many reasons visual tests for driving licenses should be more rigid than they are. Only ten states have adequate laws requiring such tests today, and it is only a question of time until the 90 major automobile catastrophes a day force the other states to similar measures."

Why Pine Trees Remain Green Through Winter

Foliage of pine trees and other coniferous evergreens remains green throughout the winter because the needles or leaves are protected against low temperatures, says Pathfinder Magazine. In the development of plant life through evolution these trees survived by adapting themselves to withstand the adverse growing conditions of their environment. Leaves are green because the predominant pigment in them is chlorophyll, the substance which enables plants to manufacture food from water and oxygen. The foliage of ordinary deciduous trees is not adapted to withstand low temperatures and in the fall the chlorophyll is converted into a colorless product. This exposes other pigments, particularly carotin and xanthophyll, and the result is the beautifully colored foliage characteristic of the season. The needles of the pine trees correspond in function to the leaves of deciduous trees and the green element in them is protected from injury both by their tough exterior and by the arrangement of the water molecules in the protoplasm of the cells. There are coniferous evergreens in warm climates which are not protected to the same extent and they are likely to be damaged or killed by temperatures lower than that to which they are used.

Why Drought of 1930

Doctor Humphreys of the weather bureau says that in 1930 such a large amount of cold air rushed over Europe causing unusually great rainfall there, the abnormal flow of polar air in that direction withdrew much of the pressure that causes currents to move down the usual American paths. Much of it was dissipated in Canada, causing a wet season there. The United States was therefore blanketed with warm air. In many sections it was heavy with moisture, but the necessary cold air currents required to produce rain did not arrive from the north.

Why a "Cloudburst"

Rain falls during rainfall, but clouds do not burst when there is a "cloudburst." United States weather bureau experts say that sometimes strong upward currents of air hold raindrops up from underneath and prevent them from promptly reaching the ground. Then the drops gather in much larger quantities than they usually do. When the upward air currents lessen, or so much water accumulates that the air cannot support it, there occurs the deluge of rain that we call a cloudburst.

Why Shock Causes Death

The reason why an ordinary low voltage electricity like the 110 volt ordinarily used for house lighting can kill people is explained in Modern Mechanics and Inventions Magazine. What the low voltage does is to shock the heart so that muscles of that organ begin to quiver continually causing what physicians call fibrillation. This prevents the full and regular contractions which are necessary to pump the blood.

Why Moon Is Irregular

The moon's orbit around the earth is not a perfect circle. The irregularity in the intervals of the moon's rising on successive days is due to two causes, namely: the eccentricity of the moon's orbit, and the variation of the moon's declination. If the moon moved in a circular orbit in the plane of the earth's equator, it would rise each day 50½ minutes later than on the day before.

Why Onions Affect Eyes

Onions give off a chemical substance which is injurious to the eyes. This excites the nerves of the eyes, which send a message to the brain, which in turn sends a message to the tear glands to make tears quickly to clean the eyes.

HOME FIRE LOSSES

TOTAL \$5,548,000

In one year's time, according to a report of the Bureau of Fire Protection, Pennsylvania State Police, 10,061 dwelling houses were damaged or destroyed by fire in Pennsylvania, exclusive of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, entailing a loss of \$5,548,000. Fire bureau officials announced that these properties represented 50 per cent of the total number of buildings involved in fire losses during that period and were responsible for nearly 20 per cent of the monetary loss. More than four-fifths of the causes of these fire losses were of a preventable nature, it is claimed.

Fire bureau officials are hopeful that the fire prevention activities being formulated will bring about a decided reduction of fire losses for this class during the present year.

—Subscribe for the Watchman.

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