Britains Consider Rheumatic Disease

Conference of Eminent Physicians and Health Officials Held at Bath

Influence of Environment

A conference on rheumatic diseases was held recently at Bath, England, under the Presidency of Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the British Ministry of Health, according to the London correspondent of The Journal of American Medical Association. Although no important additions to science were made, says the correspondent, the conference achieved its object of surveying the present position with regard to a group of maladies that cause an immense amount of invalidity.

In his Presidential address Sir George Newman said that the object was to consider the campaign for the conquest or control of rheumatism. The urgency of this matter was manifest from the advance of knowledge of the heterogeneous group of joint diseases and from the data furnished for the first time by the school medical service and the health insurance system. The disease was a drag on industry and a source of heavy financial loss to the State. The main difficulties were three: (1) The relation of the varied forms of rheumatism to one another and their distribution in the world generally or in England cannot be exactly defined; (2)the causa causans is not known with certainty; (3) there is not accord as to the best means of treatment.

Sir Walter S. Kinnear, Controller of Health and Pension Insurance gave some startling figures. One-sixth of the total period for which sickness and disablement benefit was paid to men (one-seventh to women) was due to rheumatic diseases. In 1927 such total benefit in Great Britain amounted to $100,000,000, representing 34,000,000 weeks' incapacity. Of this the incapacity due to rheumatism amounted to 5,500,000 weeks, with a disbursement of $25,000,000. To this must be added loss of wages amountingto $60,000,000.

Influence of Environment

Dr. Reginald Miller, Honorary Secretary of the British Medical Association Subcommittee on Rheumatism and Heart Disease in Children, said that juvenile rheumatism was massed among the children of the poor. It was not due to case-to-case infection, but seemed to be an environmental disease. So close was the relation with tonsillar disease that it appeared that the environment factors must to some extent work by producing infected tonsils. There was a particular connection with damp dwellings.

Sir Humphry Rolleston said that the term "rheumatic diseases" was convenient, if umbrella-like, as it included those acute and chronic infections, rheumatic fever and the rheumatoid groups. At one end of the scale was acute rheumatic fever, remarkably amenable to salicylates; at the other end was ostearthritis, largely if not entirely a degenerative disease and not responding to salicylates. Between these two was a train of gradual transitions. The characteristic lesion of rheumatic fever was theformation of nodules, large in the subsutaneous tissues, submiliary in the heart.

Subcutaneous nodules had often been found in rheuatoid arthritis and ostearthritiesl but nodules had not been found in the heart. Fibrositis, the nonarthritic form of chronic rheumatism, was also accompanied by nodule formation. The streptococcal causation of acute rheumatism had steadily gained ground. It might be argued that the various members of the family of rheumatic diseases were streptococcal in origin and that their clinical differences depended on variations in the seed "and inborn or acquired differences in the soil," namely, the consttutional, metabolic and endocrine factors.

Means of Prevention

Dr. R. L. J. Llewellyn insisted on maintenance of the functional efficiency of the skin, which was best achieved by hydrotherapy with alternating applications of hot and cold water to the skin surface.

"Our cilmate," he said, "will not adapt itself to us and we must therefore adapt ourselves to it. Our people need hardening, not coddling."

A national cult of skin hygiene and hydrotheraphy should be initiated, he added.

Dr. F. J. Poynton did not believe in sodium salicylate for young children with acute rheumatic carditis. He used neocinhophen. It was never followed by the depression and possible death from coma that might occur if salicylate was pushed.

Sir William Willcox found that the virulent cases of rheumatic fever so common thirty years ago did not now occur to anything like the same extent, which he attributed largely to the development of school hygiene. In chonic rheumatism, vaccines should not be given until after the fullest clinical investigation and the treatment of any foci of infection. They were contra-ndicated when sensitization to the toxins of infection existed; also if there were associated exophthalmic goiter.

They were of value in chronic rheumatism when any gross focus of infection had been removed and the toxic process was being carried on by the chronic infection of a mucous surface with its accompanying glandular tissue. Stock streptococcal vaccines were far inferior to autogenous vaccines, he said.

FINANCING OF CHINA

T. V. Soong, Nationalist finance minister, who presided at a meeting of 80 Nationalists and bankers in Shanghai for the consideration of the problems relating to financing the republic.

Charged With the Leviathan Mail Robbery

Official in Steward's Office Said to Have Secured $6,000

New York.—Archibald Chapman, assistant linen keeper in the steward's department, was charged recently with theft of registered mail from the United States liner Leviathan, between June 16 and June 22, while the vessel was on the high seas.

Chapman was held in $7,500 bail for a hearing on August 9, when arraigned before United States Commissioner Francis A. O'Neill. He is 32 and comes from London, England.

The Leviathan docked here recently. Commodore Cunningham, her master, said that it had been learned that the loss from the mails could not exceed $6,000, but a postal inspector placed the loss $4,000 higher.

The Empire's Knight of the Keen Eye

THE CHAMPION SHOT OF THE BRITISH ARMY

Lance-Sergeant E. Poulton of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards was presented with the championship cup by Field-Marshal Sir George Milne.

Preserving and Restoring Our Historic Sites

Marking of Sites of National Importance Carried Out by Department of the Interior

Pioneer Days Recalled

Canada's historical background contains some of the most romantic and interesting episodes in the history of North America. In many districts throughout the Dominion there still remain visible evidences of our history in ruins which have been preserved, but there are scenes of other and often important actions and events which are unmarked by any physical reminder of what transpired at these points. The Department of the Interior, has been carrying on a valuable work in preserving and restoring the ruins and suitably marking the sites of national historc importance. As a result along many of the main motor highways of the Dominion artistically designed cairns and tablets give motorists and tourists a peep into our romantic past.

On the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, the Department of the Interior, through the National Parks Service, has marked 118 sites by the erection of suitable memorials. Each year at the annual meeting of the Board the suggestions of the various members are reviewed and a number of sites are recommended for marking. During 1927 tablets were placed on twenty-five sites and one of the most picturesque ceremonies in this connection was the unveiling of the cairn and tablet at Blackfoot Crossing, near where the Cluny-Milo section of the Alberta Provincial Highway crosses the Bow River. This memorial commemorates the signing of September 22, 1877, near this point, of Treaty No. 7 by which the wide plains were thrown open to the white man and peace and security was assured the Indians. The unveiling took place on the fiftieth anniversary of the signing, the principals in which were: Hon. David Lard and Lt.-Col. James F. Macleod, representing the Crown; and the famous Indian leader, Chief Crowfoot, and other chiefs and councillors of the Blackfoot, Blood, Peigan, Stony, and other Indians. The Red Men relinquished their claim to 50,000 square miles of fertile prairie in southwestern Alberta by this treaty. The site of the memorial is also near the grave of Chief Crowfoot.

Indian treaties signed in each of the other Prairie Provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, are also to be commemorated. Theaty No. 1 was signed at Lower Fort Garry, Manitoba, on August 3, 1871, and Treaty No. 6 at Fort Carlton, Saskatchewan, between the 23rd and 28th of August, 1876, and at Fort Pitt on September 9, 1876.

Recently the 1928 annual meeting of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board was held at Ottawa. One hundred and ten sites were reviewed and a number were selected to be marked as of national importance. Brigadier General E. A. Cruikshank, who is a recognized authority on the military history of Canada and is chairman of the Board, presided at the meeting. The other members in attendance were, Dr. J. C. Webster, Shediac, New Brunswick; Judge W. Crowe, Sydney, Nova Scotia; Hon. P. Demers, Montreal, Quebec; Dr. J. H. Coyne, St. Thomas, Ontario; Judge F. W. Howay, New Westminster, British Columbia, representing Western Canada; Mr. J. B. Harkin, Commissioner, National Parks of Canada, representing the Department of the Interior; and Major A. A. Pinard, Secretary.

Of the new sites or events selected for commemoration the following are in Ontario and Quebec:

St. Johns, Quebec.—Site, near here, of the Battle of Montgomery's Creek, September 6, 1775, with Montgomery's invading army. The defeat of the invaders had the effect of repelling a formidable invasion for the time being nad created great enthusiasm in the country.

Nanticoke, Haldimand County, Ontario.—On 13th November, 1813, the Norfolk volunteer militia, routed a band of marauders who had terrorized the country. This exploit inspirited the military orcfes, restored the confidence of the people, and was an mportant factor in the immediate recovery of lost ground.

Fort Drummond, Queenston Heights, Ontario.—Fort built by military labor for the defense of the frontier in 1814 and named in honour of Sir Gordon Drummond.

Niagara-on-the Lake, Ontario.—Commemorating the treaties concluded with the Chippawa and Mississauga Indians by Colonel Guy Johnson, May 9, 1781, and Lt.-Col. John Butler, May 22, 1784.

Kingston Navy Yard, Kingston, Ontario.—The British naval station for lake Ontario during the years 1788-1818. Here were built fourteen King's ships. In the war of 1812-14 this naval force enabled the army to retain control of Upper Canada.

Amherstburg Navy Yard, Amherstburg, Ontario.—The British naval station for lake Erie and Huron during the years, 1796-1813. Here nine King's ships were built. In the war of 1812-14 htis naval force enabled the army to retain control of that frontier.

Reds Gain Upper Hand in Australia

Resolution Agrees to Affiliation With Pan-Pacific Secretariat

Sydney, New South Wales.—With an overwhelming majority, the Red element, by a snap vote, carried a resolution at a recent section of the all-Australian Council of Trades nions supporting affiliation with the Pan-Pacific secretariat. Supporters of the "white Australia" policy were jeered at by the Communists when they crossed the floor to vote against the measure.

The resolution, which was moved by J. Garden, secretary of the Trade Labor Council of Sydney and an avowed Communist, was that the Australian Council of Trades Unions should unite to combat the dangers of a Pacific war and also to assist the workers of more backward countries to improve their position.

It declared emphatically that affiliation with the Pan-Pacific Secretariat did not mean affiliation with the Third Internationale, but the moderate element warmly challenged htsic laim.

A House for Peter Pan

If Peter Pan wants another house to live in—just for fun—there is a wonderful one waiting for him. There would be one for Wendy, too, and two over—in fact, four. Perhaps it is rather a liberty to think that Peter Pan could want another dwelling, when he is so happy in his tree-tops. Yes—but this is a holiday cottage by the sea. His little house is on one side of a bridge over the river, and Wendy's is on the other side. They are as like as two peas. Both are painted gray, with little rounded tower-like tops with windows in them. On the bridge-level is one diminutive rounded room with three windows and a front door. The door has a letter box and a handle, and it has white curtains, like the windows. One could almost turn the handle and walk in. Suppose Peter Pan were there! Just suppose! Each house has a steep little garden, almost tumbling into the river, only there is a wall between. One has a grass plot—such green grass!—and purple irises (it must be Wendy's), and one has a flower bed with wallflowers (Peter Pan's). Outside the wall which keeps the garden from the river is a tiny bit of beach at low tide—and then, just the shining river, flowing softly away under the bridge.

There is no doubt at all that it is the very place for Peter Pan.

The tax on credulity remains about the same.

Europe Is Bitter Over Disclosures on Nobile Wreck

Demonstration of Co-operation Turns to Outburst of Ill-Will

MALMGREN'S FATE

Swedish and Russian Press Voice Grace Charges—British Silent

London.—With the element of mystery and hints of more sinister aspects injected into the latest phases of the grim Arctic drama, all Europe is watching tensely while the disaster to the dirigible Italia in Polar ice is rapidly transferred from a demonstration of international co-operation and sympathy into an outburst of the bitterest international ill will.

The revelation that Dr. Finn Malmgren, the brilliant young Swedish meteorologist with General Nobile's expedition, was left behind to die in the frozen waste while his two Italian companions, Majors Filippo Zappi and Mariano marched on until they eventually were picked up by the Soviet ice-breaker Grassin, has stirred feeling in Sweden to fever pitch, and a diplomatic demarche toward Rome may follow the official probe which the Swedish Government is carrying out into the circumstances of the scientist'sdeath. Russian reports have it Malmgren was stripped of his clothing and his body eaten by the Italians.

Series of Disclosures

The partial bearing of Dr. Malmgren's still mysterious fate, however, is only the climax of a long series of disclosures thinly veiling the grave charges on the conduct of the expedition since its take-off from Spitzbergen down to the rescues of its scattered survivors. These are now more freely voiced in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries, as well as in Soviet Russia, but while the British press has scrupulously abstained from intervening in view of the cool relations already existing between France and Italy, it is freely adopting the charges against Nobile and his Italia colleagues.

The Italian newspapers, on the other hand, are stung into furious anger by the criticism in foreign newspapers, and the dispute has now spread over half the dontinent of Europe. The charge that the disaster was primarily due to Nobile's insistence on starting in time to reach the North Pole on the anniversary of Italy's entrance into the war was officially denied, but there is the testimony of the Swedish newspaper correspondents at King's Bay that the take-off was made in the most light-hearted spirit with Dr. Malmgren already going on record that conditions were unfavorable.

Then, ever since the Italia's radio flashed from the northern silence the first news that the expedition had met with disaster, the question of the conduct of the expedition and some of its individual members has been piled on question. Why, it is asked, in the first place, were the main relief efforts left to Sweden and Russia, which undertook to rush all aid to the castaways, despite Rome's rejection of their offer of assistance?

Lack of o-operation

The Moscow Government, which through the efforts of the ice-breaker Krassin finally was responsible for most of the rescues, has gone officially on record against the lack of co-operation, while members of the Swedish expedition, headed by Lieut. Tornberg, including Lieut. Lundborg, the hero of the dramatic air swoop to pick up Nobile drifting on floes, have been in the gravest peril, and Captain Amundsen, famous Norwegian explorer, with the French Captain Gilbaud and his companions in a Latham plane, are feared lost.

Then, there is the charge of Professor Behounek, the rescued Czecho-Slavia survivor, that the disaster was due to Nobile's insistence, against expert advice, on investigating the region to the northeast of Spitzbergen and the consequent drifting of the airship into a storm, led to the wreck when a jutting ice peak tore off the gondola from the dirigible's envelope. Next, there is the question why Nobile, contrary to all the traditions of commanders of such expeditions, permitted himself to be rescued ahead of his comrades, some of whom were reported to have been more gravely injured than himself. Finally, there is the story of Dr. Malmgren's death, with the sinister suggestion injected that there was a fight between Nobile and the Swedish meteorologist over the former's alleged mismanagement of the airship, that Nobile was afraid of certain revelations which the latter might be able to make, and that the dirigible's commander was recalled to Rome in order to suppress documents which might be injurious to the prestige of Italian aviation.

Majors Zappi and Mariano have capped the climax of the drama, charged throughout with the most intense human interest, by going on record that they abandoned Malmgren at his own request, when the injured Swedish scientist gave out in the march of the party toward land from Nobile's main camp. Into the tangled problem of ethics involved in the behaviour of the two Italian officers, if their version of the tragedy is accepted, the British press so far has refused to enter.

There is a concensus here, however, that for the sake of the wider interests of aviation, as well as to clear the impunged good name of those involved, and to damp down the international ill will excited by the whole story, the Italia expedition from start to finish should be impartially probed. This all bears out Amundsen and Ellsworth's sizing up of Nobile's inefficient character after their "Norge" flight of last year.

British Launch 8000-Ton Cruiser

Government Builds Vessel Smaller Than Washington Treaty Maximum

London.—The cruiser York, one of the new ships authorized by the British Navy estimates of 1926-27, has been launched by the Duchess of York at Yarrow-on-Tyne. It is the first of the new 8000-ton type which the Government desires to substitute for the larger 10,000-ton cruisers hitherto favored.

Thus the other two cruisers of the 1928 program are still on the stocks, the Dorsetshire at Portsmouth and the Norfolk at Fairfield Yard, Govan. Both belong to the 10,000-ton type.

Only one cruiser was provided for in the 1927 estimates. This vessel, which is to be named the Exetera, is about to be laid down at Devonport and it will be of similar size and design to the York.

"In voluntarily building cruisers of a smaller size than the Washington treaty maximum," says the Daily Telegraph, "Great Britain is setting an example of armament limitation which the other signatory powers, with the exception of Italy, have not yet seen fit to follow."

In the Arboretum

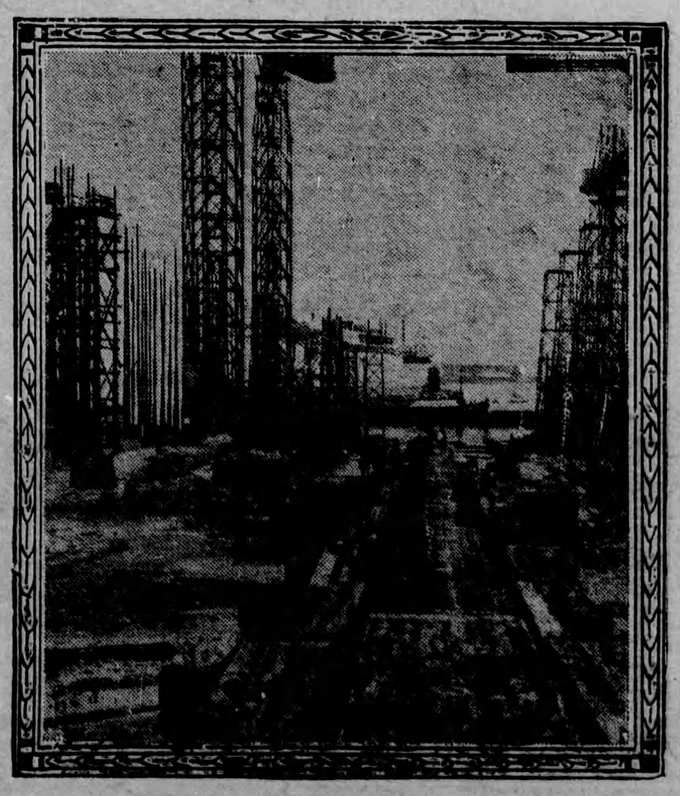
Fairy azalea flowers
Flame from the hillside,
Under the somber pine-tree branches.

Green, jade green, are the leaves.
Do they screen
The magic, snow-white peak of Fuji-San?

—Ada Frances Almy.

The Indianapolis News says: "Only 199 days until Christmas." Moral: Do your shopping early!

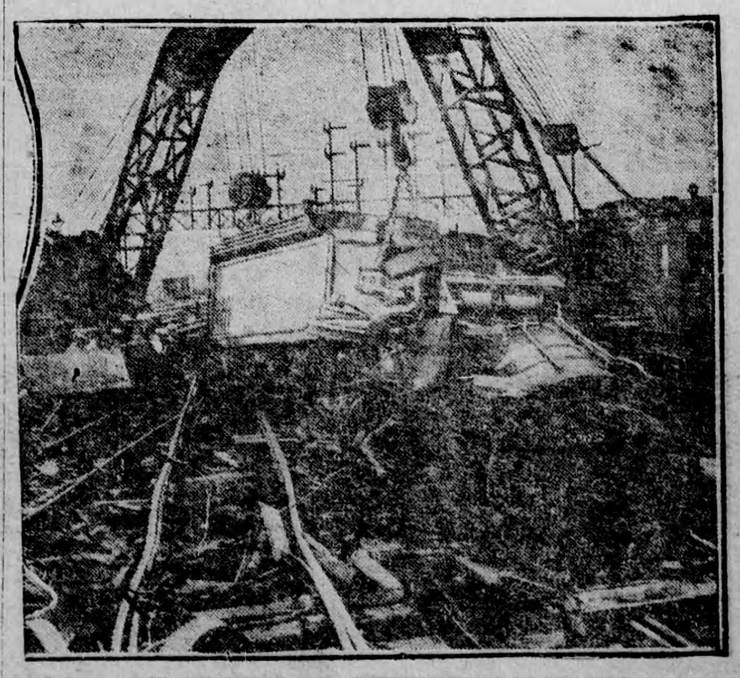
Controlling Sea Trade



HERE IS THE LONGEST KEEL IN THE WORLD

The keel of the new White Star 80,000-ton liner laid down in the shipyard in Belfast. A true giant of the waves.

A View of the Very Unusual



IRON MONSTER IS THROWN FROM THE TRACKS

Twenty-three people killed and 46 injured in a collison between an excursion train and a parcels train at Darlington, Eng., where train operation is usually so efficient that certain newspapers habitually in[illegible] their readers against such a happening. Any of the estates of the k[illegible] the injured who carried one of these papers would unhesitatingly [illegible] to $1000.