

medical centers in the south are setting up special clinics for treating them.

"These diseases are not readily transferred from the sufferers to other persons by the use of drinking cups, kissing and towels, although granuloma venereum may be," Dr. Cole said. "Sexual relations do spread them rapidly though," he emphasized.

Science News Letter, December 2, 1939

Skin Diseases Predominate

SKIN diseases make up about three-fourths of all occupational diseases in the United States, causing millions of dollars loss in time and efficiency every year, Dr. Marion B. Sulzberger, of New York, declared.

Plants, drugs, cosmetics, textiles, wearing apparel, household articles, parasites, fungi and other agents all may cause occupational dermatitis or skin disease in those whose jobs bring them in contact with these objects. Physical and chemical agents such as dyes, may cause the condition by direct irritation of the skin, but trouble may also be caused in sensitive or allergic persons by substances which in most cases are innocuous.

The "hazards" of the patient's home and working place and even his intelligence and ability to follow treatment and his truthfulness in reporting his case history must be investigated, Dr. Sulzberger said, in order to make an accurate diagnosis and to prescribe effective treatment.

Science News Letter, December 2, 1939

INVENTION

Research Laboratories Announce Useful Finds

FROM industrial research laboratories: A new coating of alkyd resin for copper that keeps it bright and metallic when tested on the General Electric's New York World's Fair building.

Germ destruction by ultraviolet lamps that solves the problem of sanitary control of those paper hood-caps that milk bottles now wear.

Stainless steel serving trays, solid, corrosion-resistant, etched with beautiful designs.

Paints that tell how hot a machine part is becoming by changes in color.

Science News Letter, December 2, 1939

It is estimated that India has 1,500,000 blind and another 3,000,000 partially blind, and that at least half of this misery is due to preventable conditions.

PHYSICS

Use Flickering Beam To Probe Upper Atmosphere

"No Man's Land" of Atmosphere Below the Radio Reflecting Layers Explored With Distinctive Light

THE PIERCING, puzzling searchlight beam which mystified residents of northwest Washington last summer on moonless, dark and clear nights was explained at the meeting of the Philosophical Society of Washington by Ellis A. Johnson, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

No ordinary searchlight beam was that seen by Washingtonians. Its brilliant beam flickered ten times a second and identified it, for scientific research, so that its scattering at heights of as much as 24.8 miles could be detected.

The experiments, Mr. Johnson reported, seek to probe the upper atmosphere for its secrets of temperature, density, presence of clouds and other important

information at heights which are beyond the reach of stratosphere flights with balloons.

Moreover, the new searchlight experiments tap that region of space lower than the radio reflecting layers in the ionosphere. The new technique thus investigates the "no man's land" of the atmosphere.

While the current experiments have been preliminary, seeking mostly to show the feasibility of the method, they indicate that studies can be carried out on the height of water vapor in the atmosphere, the amount of turbulence, the winds, dust, fluorescence and absorption of these upper altitudes up to nearly 20 miles. Actual measurements have



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by A. S. EVE

Foreword by EARL BALDWIN

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