

SCIENCE NOTES.

The *Daily Telegraph* keeps an eye on the progress of science and the two following paragraphs are of public interest.

RADIUM FROM OCEAN BED.

U.S. Expedition to South Pacific.

"Fishing" for deposits of radium, which are believed to lie at the bottom of the Pacific, will be carried out by the South Pacific expedition organised by the National Geographic Society and the University of Virginia.

The radium deposits are not believed to be of commercial value, but they may contain vast stores of heat and energy which produce changes in the ocean basins and the earth's crust.

To search for the radium, the expedition will use a "deep-sea gun" which can be fired on the bottom of the ocean to a depth of six miles.

The gun is lowered to the bottom on a cable, and is fired automatically. The explosion drives a hollow metal tube deep into the ocean floor. When the tube is hauled to the surface it contains a cross section of "core" of the ocean bottom sediment which has been slowly accumulating for millions of years.

Deep-sea radium deposits are believed to have played an important part in the past history of the earth, perhaps influencing the formation of ocean basins and the development of the earth's crust. The expedition hopes to shed new light on these problems.

FROZEN SLEEP.

Cancer Experiments in America.

"Frozen sleep" treatment for cancer may prove also effective for treating serious heart ailments, according to a case which is reported by doctors of Springfield, Illinois.

They said that a fifty-three-year-old Chinese man who underwent the five-days hibernation treatment for cancer showed relief from heart disease when he awakened in hospital there.

Under this new cancer treatment, says the British United Press, the patient is packed in ice for five days, during which time he lapses into a deep sleep like a coma, and all bodily functions except respiration and heart action cease.

The patient's temperature is forced down to approximately 89 degrees, and he sleeps like a hibernating bear. At the end of five days hot stimulants are administered to revive him. The only other medication is a mild anaesthetic to relieve the shock of being packed in ice.

Discussing the case of the Chinese who underwent the treatment at Springfield, Dr. James Graham, who, with Dr. Alex Jones and Henry Aschauer, attended the man, who suffered from both cancer and heart trouble, said:—

"An examination gave evidence that the freezing had abated the heart ailment. It is possible that hibernation may be a help in treating serious heart ailments."

For five days and four nights the patient lay packed in ice in a porcelain tub, during which his temperature was lowered to 85 degrees. Dr. Graham explained that the organs of digestion ceased working and the pulse beat and respiration were so faint that only an electroradiograph showed that there was life in the body.

"We hope the treatment was successful," he continued. "Below 90 degrees cancer cells apparently cannot live. It appears that the destructive effect of refrigeration and hibernation on cancer cells is similar to that of X-ray and radium, and possibly may be more effective in certain cases."

Volunteers who have gone through the experience say that there is little unpleasantness about it, a heavy drowsiness coming over the patient until he finally loses consciousness. Upon awakening he has no memory of what happened during refrigeration.

TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES.

Several correspondents have sent us cuttings of Viscountess Falmouth's proposal for intensive training courses for war time nurses which have been started in Oxfordshire, hoping that something can be done to discourage these quick change artistes.

The originator of the scheme is Mrs. Beckwith-Smith, of Stratton Audley Manor, near Bicester. She pointed out to the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Red Cross Society that in war time the ordinary courses of lectures were not, in her opinion, sufficient and that an intensive course would be more valuable.

Both organisations gave their approval to the scheme, and Mrs. Beckwith-Smith took over Rutland House, Bicester, which she equipped as a training school for nurses.

A Fortnight's Course.

There is a fortnight's course of training in home nursing and first aid, at the end of which an examination is held. Up till now, although about 60 women have passed through the school, there have been no failures.

Applications from all parts of the country have been received from women between the ages of 18 and 40. They pay a fee which covers the expenses. Afterwards some go as probationer nurses to hospitals and others enter hospitals as auxiliary nurses to do a special 50-hour course.

Mrs. Beckwith-Smith states that if a sufficient number of women were interested other training schools would be opened.

Considering the desperate muddle of nursing affairs in connection with the war, made by the Civil Nursing Reserve Committee, encouraging as it does women of *all classes* to "train" in a 50-hour course, surely it should be a warning to well meaning yet ignorant ladies of title not to further meddle therein.

But alas! it was ever thus. The Nursing Profession has ever been the sport of "the quality," and unfortunately our sailors, soldiers and airmen are irresistible bait to this special form of love of patronage and power.

We do petition Viscountess Falmouth and Mrs. Beckwith-Smith to curb their ardour, and cease foisting upon our defenders when sick, women, with a smattering of knowledge and skill, when the most highly qualified nurses should attend them in their hour of need.

NURSING HELD UP TO RIDICULE.

Is it not time that "nursing" should cease to be held up to ridicule? The following par was recently contributed to an evening paper:—

"Back from the South African tour of 'Land of Smiles' with Richard Tauber, Hella Kurtz tells me that Tauber flew to Italy with his wife, Diana Napier, and has been singing in Switzerland.

"Diana has passed her V.A.D. test and intends to take up nursing work when they return to England next month. Tauber and Hella may tour 'Land of Smiles' in the provinces."

"Tauber" is in the front rank in opera, but that does not justify "Diana" in posing as a nurse, we presume of our stricken soldiers. Indeed all this advertising by Society women, and others of their altruistic instincts, quiescent until the war, is one of the most objectionable phases of its evolution, as heartless as it is insincere.

We shall believe in these "heroines" when they offer to care for senile old women, thousands of whom need tender care in hospitals.

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