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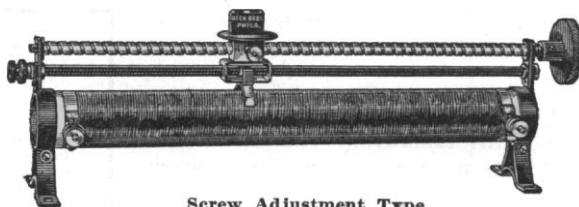
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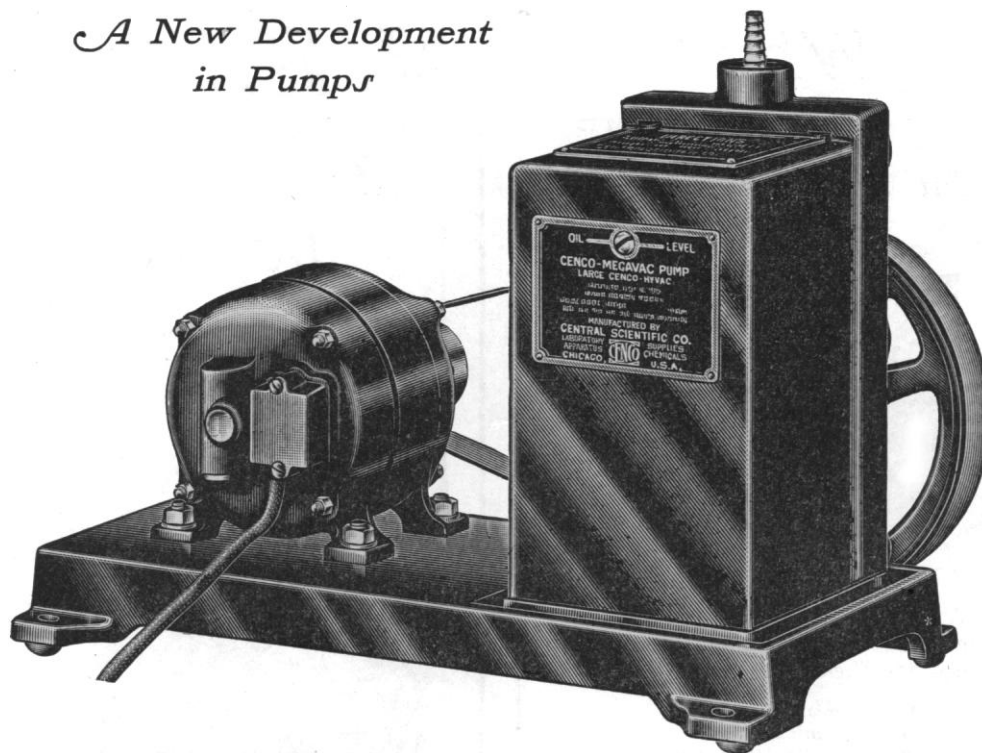
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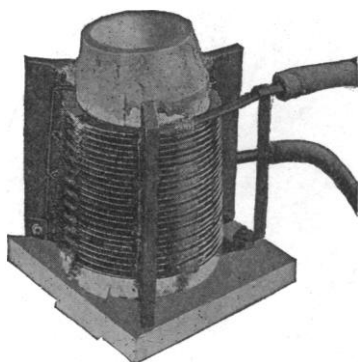
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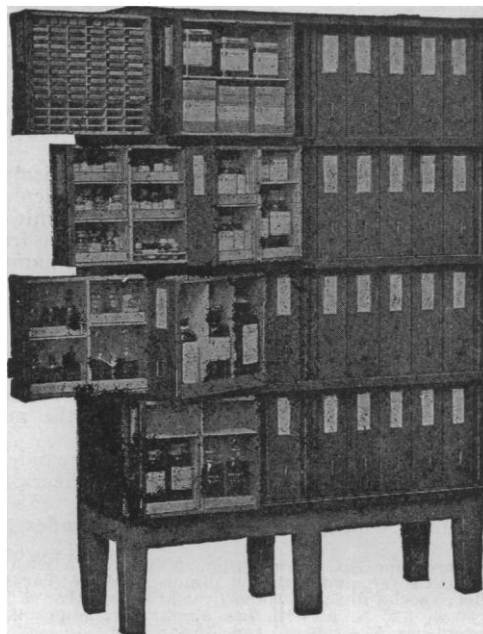
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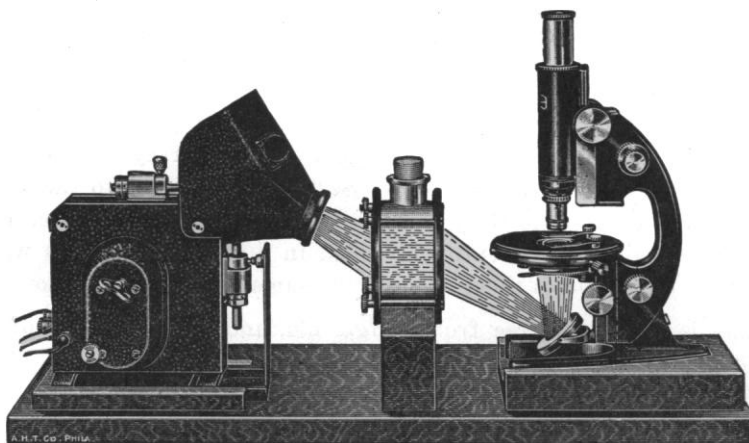
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# SCIENCE

VOL. LXVI

JULY 22, 1927

No. 1699

## CONTENTS

<i>Medical Research and its Organization</i> : DR. SIMON FLEXNER .....	69
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>The Conversazioni of the Royal Society; An International Society for the Study of Peatlands; An Agricultural Census of the World; The Geologic Survey of Pennsylvania; Field Expeditions of the University of Chicago; Resolutions in Memory of Victor Lenher</i> .....	73
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	76
<i>University and Educational Notes</i> .....	78
<i>Discussion:</i>	
<i>Misuse of the Name "Leucoscope": DR. IRWIN G. PRIEST. Tadpoles as a Source of Protozoa for Classroom Use: ELERY R. BECKER. The Effect of Ultraviolet Radiations upon Soy Beans: H. REBECCA DAXE. The Flora of Barro Colorado Island: DR. A. S. HITCHCOCK. A Daylight Meteor: WILLIAM L. BRYANT</i> .....	78
<i>Quotations:</i>	
<i>The National Museum of Australian Zoology</i> .....	81
<i>Scientific Books:</i>	
<i>Eddington on the Internal Constitution of the Stars</i> : DR. H. H. PLASKETT .....	81
<i>Artificial Transmutation of the Gene</i> : PROFESSOR H. J. MULLER .....	84
<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i>	
<i>An Instrument for Repeated Determinations of Blood Viscosity in an Animal</i> : RUSSELL A. WAUD .....	87
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>Balantidia from Pigs and Guinea-pigs, their Viability, Cyst Production and Cultivation</i> : DR. C. W. REES. <i>The Decomposition of Hydrogen Peroxide and the Mechanism of Latent Photographic Image Intensification</i> : DRS. E. P. WIGHTMAN and R. F. QUIRK .....	89
<i>Science News</i> .....	x

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## MEDICAL RESEARCH AND ITS ORGANIZATION<sup>1</sup>

OCCASIONS such as the one in which we are participating are peculiarly significant. They mark the advancement of knowledge—its principles and practice—through a training of both the mind and the hand in the power to comprehend and extend knowledge. All knowledge comprises one vast domain; there is to-day scarcely a line of separation between the pursuit of the knowledge called "humanistic" and that called "scientific." The object is one, since in both what is sought is the interpretation of nature, whether in the physical world about us or in the mind and spirit within. In all these fields, we are now used to exercise the privilege of free inquiry and to substitute for authority the evidences of our perceptions.

This high privilege is on the whole a recent acquisition. Although we date our intellectual freedom from the Renaissance period, it is fruitful to reflect on the diverse ways in which the revival of learning in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries affected on the one hand the development of letters and art, and on the other that of science. The interest awakened in the literature of Greece and Rome was shown in the admiration not only for the works of poets, historians and orators, but also for those of physicians, anatomists and astronomers. In consequence, scientific investigation was almost wholly restricted to the study of the writings of authors like Aristotle, Hippocrates, Ptolemy and Galen, and it became the highest ambition to explain and comment upon their teachings, almost an impiety to question them. Independent inquiry and the direct appeal to nature were thus discouraged, and indeed looked upon with the utmost distrust if their results ran counter to what was found in the works of Aristotle and Galen.<sup>2</sup>

It is not without significance for us that it was the anatomists of the sixteenth century who broke with tradition and determined to examine the human body for themselves, and it was owing chiefly to the labors of two independent geniuses, contemporaries for a time at the University of Padua, Galileo and Harvey, working in very different spheres, that the old order was overthrown and a new era inaugurated.

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<sup>1</sup> Address made at the Convocation for the Conferring of Advanced Degrees, Brown University, June 14, 1927.

<sup>2</sup> Harvey, W., "Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals," translated by Robert Willis, Everyman's Library, 1906; Introduction by E. A. Parkyn, p. vii.

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WARD.

CHEMISTRY. DR. CHARLES H. HERTY.  
ECONOMICS. PROFESSOR JOSEPH H. WILLITS.  
GEOLOGY. PROFESSOR HEINRICH RIES.  
MATHEMATICS. PROFESSOR GILBERT AMES  
BLISS.

PUBLIC HEALTH. PROFESSOR RANDLE C.  
ROSENBERGER.

PSYCHOLOGY. DR. J. McKEEN CATTELL.

WHAT TRANSPIRES IN THE KINGDOM OF RE-  
SEARCH. T. SWANN HARDING.

INVESTIGATION OF LIFE IN THE SEA. PRO-  
FESSOR W. E. ALLEN.

THE MONGOLIAN AGE OF MAMMALS. PROFESSOR  
WILLIAM K. GREGORY.

THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE FISH ASTRO-  
SCOPUS. PROFESSOR ULRIC DAHLGREN.

CHEMICAL MICROSCOPY—TIME AND LABOR  
SAVER. PROFESSOR E. M. CHAMOT.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE:  
*Nature's Notebook; Early Flies; The Bicentennial  
of Newton's Death.*

## JUNE, 1927

SKELETAL RECORDS OF MORTALITY. PROFESSOR  
T. WINGATE TODD.

THE STUDENT OF NATURE. DR. PAUL R. HEYL.

SCIENCE IN JAPAN. DR. HERBERT E. GREGORY.

THE OLDEST KNOWN PETRIFIED FOREST.  
WINIFRED GOLDRING.

REFLECTIONS ON CREDULITY. PROFESSOR A. W.  
MEYER.

PROGRESS. DR. J. P. SIMONDS.

THE FUTURE, BALANCE OF LIFE. AUSTIN H.  
CLARK.

FISHES THAT LIVE IN THE MOUTHS OR GILL  
CAVITIES OF OTHER FISHES. E. W. GUDGER.

THOMAS MOFFAT, ELIZABETHAN PRYSICIAN  
AND ENTOMOLOGIST. HARRY B. WEISS.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE:  
*Researches described at the Annual Meeting of  
the National Academy of Sciences.*

INDEX TO VOLUME XXIV.

## MAY, 1927

DID MAN ORIGINATE IN CENTRAL ASIA? PRO-  
FESSOR WILLIAM K. GREGORY.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF  
GAUSS. G. WALDO DUNNINGTON.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT:

*Causes and Mechanisms of Prevalent Crimes.*  
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM MCADOO.

*Crime in the Commercial Field.* PROFESSOR  
JOSEPH MAYER.

*Local Crime Commissions.* JAMES M. HEPBRON.

*Stages of Evolution and Relation to Crime.* PRO-  
FESSOR LANCASTER D. BURLING.

*Immigration Law Enforcement.* PROFESSOR  
DONALD YOUNG.

GRAVITY ON THE EARTH AND ON THE MOON.  
FRED E. WRIGHT.

PHONOPHOTOGRAPHY IN THE MEASUREMENT  
OF THE EXPRESSION OF EMOTION AND  
SPEECH. DEAN CARL E. SEASHORE.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE:  
*Legislation against the Teaching of Evolution;  
The Antiquity of Man in America; Advances in  
Television.*

## JULY, 1927

A PARADISE FOR PLANT LOVERS. DR. ALBERT  
F. BLAKESLEE.

THE GROWTH OF EXPERIMENTATION IN EARLY  
SCIENCES. DR. EDWARD F. ADOLPH.

THE SOLID GROUND OF NATURE. DR. PAUL R.  
HEYL.

ARTIFICIAL BEACH CONSTRUCTION IN THE  
VICINITY OF NEW YORK. DR. HENRY S.  
SHARP.

THE SOIL AND THE MICROBE. DR. SELMAN A.  
WAKSMAN.

WHAT IS A POLITICAL ANIMAL? PROFESSOR  
EZRA BOWEN.

OYSTER FARMING. HERBERT F. PRYTHERCH.  
WATCHMAKERS AND INVENTORS. CARL W.  
MITMAN.

TYNDALL'S EXPERIMENTS ON MAGNE-CRYSTAL-  
LIC ACTION. SIR WILLIAM BRAGG.

THE DEATH PENALTY FROM A SCIENTIFIC  
POINT OF VIEW. HOWARD C. FORBES.

ERWIN F. SMITH—A YOUNG MAN'S IMPRES-  
SION. DONALD CULROSS PEATTIE.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE:  
*The Solar Eclipse of June 29; Scientific Aids to  
Aviation; The Earth Inductor Compass; Lang-  
ley's Aerodrome; The Guggenheim School of  
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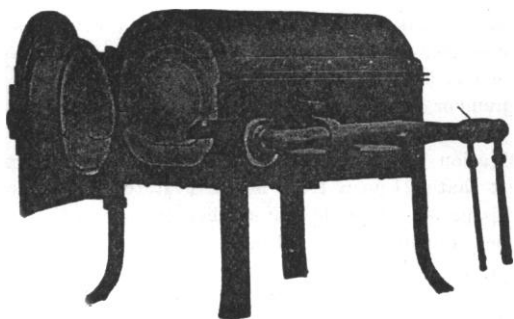
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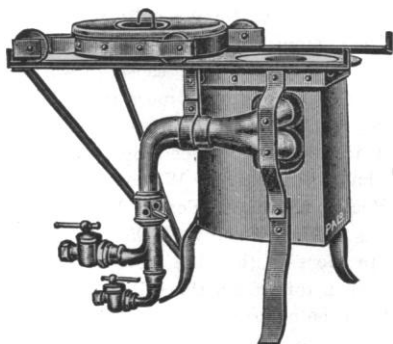
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