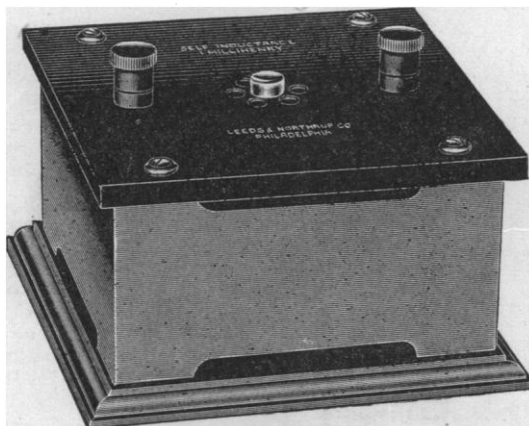


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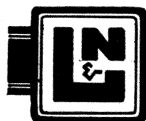


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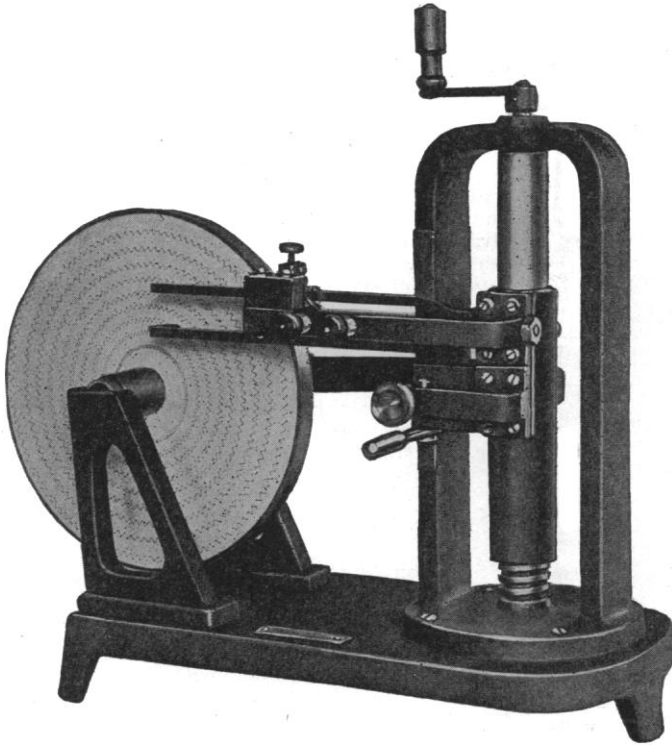
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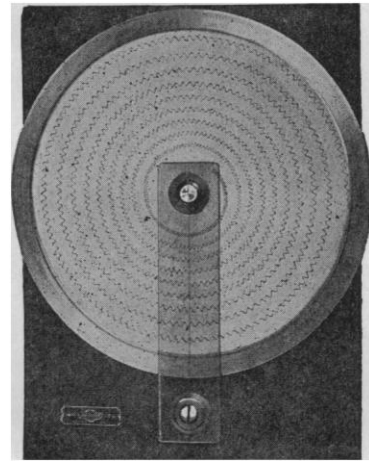
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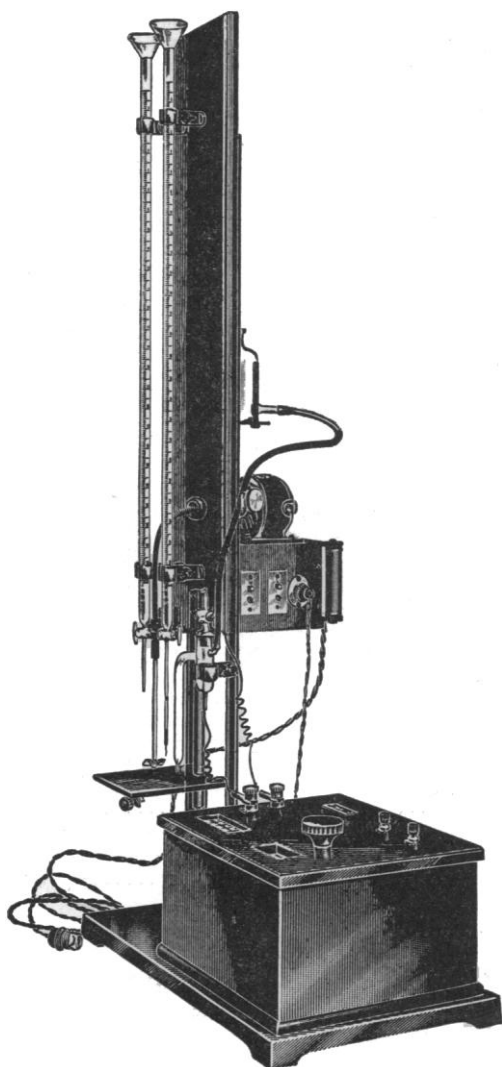


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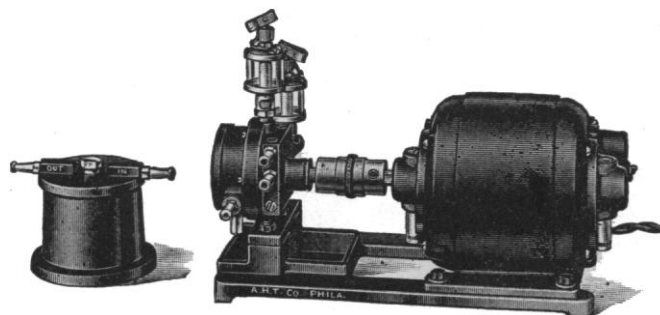
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# SCIENCE

VOL. LXVI

JULY 29, 1927

No. 1700

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## BONDS OF UNION BETWEEN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND GENERAL MEDICINE<sup>1</sup>

It is my wish that my first greeting and that my parting words should express my appreciation of the honor and the pleasure of visiting you here in Porto Rico. It is distinctly profitable to me to have this opportunity of exchanging ideas and experiences with you in our chosen field of work. In arranging for our conference this evening Dr. Lambert wrote to me suggesting that my talk ought to have a title, and he even ventured to hope that this idea would not come as too much of a surprise to me. So I have selected a subject that will permit us to wander where fancy leads, perhaps, who can tell, to one or two unexpected developments.

Our crowded activities grant us but little time for reflection, and it is easy to overlook points of contact between the adjacent fields such as tropical and general medicine. Inevitably, these two fields have exerted a profound influence on each other.

Strangely enough, the conception of tropical medicine is rather foreign to many individuals in the profession at home. The very name sometimes tends to frighten people away. To a few, it represents merely a curiosity, interesting but unimportant. One of your obligations will be to arouse still further the interest and support in New York City of your work here. One summer I met an elderly physician who had spent his life travelling in the tropics. He said to me: "Mercy, no, I stay on the ship. I never look at those patients ashore. Why should I clutter up my head with all that nonsense? If I ever had to treat those diseases I'd go somewhere and take a month's course in the subject." A few of the more serious minded deceive themselves into thinking that tropical medicine represents a real opportunity to make distinctive discoveries of new etiologic agents and new and important clinical entities almost without effort. Sometimes I feel that my friends almost take it to heart that the generosity of nature in tropical lands should cheat industry and so rudely violate the stern principles of no reward without great labor.

<sup>1</sup> A popular address delivered on February 22, 1927, as visiting lecturer at the School of Tropical Medicine, University of Porto Rico, San Juan, Porto Rico.

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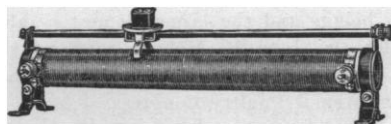
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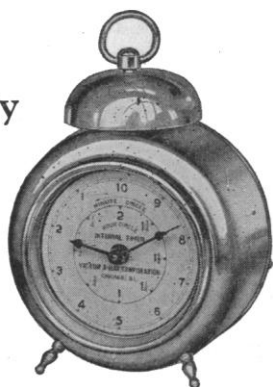
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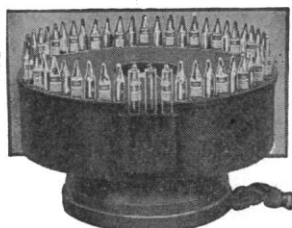
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