

then exploded above the solar surface were shown to members of the American Astronomical Society, meeting at Connecticut College. The films were made by Robert R. McMath and R. M. Petrie, at the McMath-Hulbert Observatory of the University of Michigan. This is an observatory established by a group of non-professional astronomers especially for taking astronomical motion pictures. The pictures displayed were the first results shown of the work of the "spectroheliocinematograph," an attachment for the telescope which permits motion pictures to be made of the sun in the light of a single wave-length. When projected at the usual rate the motion is speeded up about 450 times. Thus changes that would take many hours to observe while watching the sun can be shown in a few minutes.

CHILDREN under school age are more in danger of death from accidents than those who have started their school work, according to statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Fatal accidents are almost twice as numerous among children under five as among those between the ages of five and fifteen years. Accidents kill more small children than measles, diphtheria and scarlet fever combined. Burns, automobile accidents, mechanical suffocation, drownings, falls and poisonings account for almost three fourths of accidental deaths among children under five. Burns and scalds alone account for a quarter of these deaths. One encouraging feature of the situation is that the accident death rate for this group of children has declined 20 per cent. in the last ten years.

LOBAR pneumonia is being treated with encouraging results by a method originally devised for the treatment of tuberculosis of the lungs, according to a report by Dr. Francis G. Blake, of Yale University Medical School, at the meeting in New Haven of the Connecticut Clinical Congress. The method, known as artificial pneumothorax, consists in putting the affected lung to rest by decompressing or collapsing it. In tuberculosis this promotes healing and prevents extension of the disease. Experience with a large series of cases at the New Haven Hospital showed that the mortality rate from lobar pneumonia can be greatly reduced by this method of treatment. The lung must be collapsed on or before the third day of the disease. If no adhesions are present from previous pleurisy, the treatment causes a dramatic drop in temperature and relief from pain.

Is America getting wider across the middle or has some slight error crept into either the measuring methods of the astronomers or their arithmetic? Whatever may be the case, the distance between Washington, D. C., and San Diego, Calif., showed an apparent increase of about forty feet in 1933 as compared with measurements made seven years earlier. This discrepancy was reported at the meeting of the American Astronomical Society at Connecticut College by C. B. Watts of the U. S. Naval Observatory. Mr. Watts added, however, that he inclined to the second alternative; it appears easier for astronomers to make an error of forty feet in measuring a line 3,000 miles long than for the United States to grow forty feet "fatter" in seven years.

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