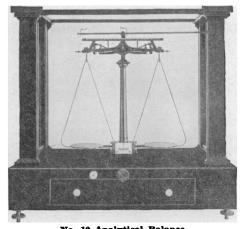
mature to defy freezing weather. Warm, dry weather over the country generally for another week has helped toward the goal. In the South, cotton is showing good progress, and although picking is late it is now getting well under way. The dry weather has spread over the Southeast, where until this week persistent rains have hampered field work. While absence of rain has thus been helping the harvesting of late crops, it has imposed a handicap on fall plowing in some parts of the country, and has thus delayed the seeding of winter grains.

DEATH and disease are the worst enemies along the impending Italian-Ethiopian battle lines, according to reports on disease conditions in Addis Ababa as communicated in consular reports to the U.S. Public Health Ser-Epidemics of typhus fever, relapsing fever and smallpox are harassing the Ethiopian capital and surrounding country, according to the latest report. number of cases or even of deaths in these three epidemics is unknown, as no statistics on sickness, deaths or births are collected. Vaccination against smallpox is not prac-Leprosy is very common in Ethiopia. So are tised. venereal diseases, and syphilis is reported to be more prevalent there than in any other country. It is said that 90 per cent. of the adult population is affected by some venereal disease. Malaria of course is always present. Tuberculosis, grippe, pneumonia, quinsy, asthma and dysentery are other diseases reported prevalent. Practically all the adults in the country have tape-worms.

An extra-strong wooden ship, whose ultimate duty will be to become frozen in Arctic ice and drift with the ice fields into high latitudes, will be completed early in 1937, Professor Wiese, the Soviet explorer, has announced. In general the design of the ship will follow that of the Fram used for similar duty by the Nansen expedition to the Arctic in 1893-96. The chief object of the expedition which will use the new ship will be a thorough study of the deep parts of the Arctic basin which are covered the year round with an ice crust so thick that the strongest ice breakers can not pierce it.

FLOWERS of the most familiar modern plants have male and female parts-pollen-yielding and seed-forming organs-close together. Lilies, apple-blossoms and buttercups are common examples. But it was not so in the most primitive flowers, some tens of millions of years ago, according to Professor H. Hamshaw Thomas, of the University of Cambridge. These earliest flowering plants kept their sexes carefully segregated, as they still are in some modern species, such as pines and willows. Evidence from fossils and from the study of modern floral structures tends to indicate that the earliest flowers consisted of whorls of structures bearing the reproductive elements, each whorl tipping the end of a branch. Professor Thomas also offered the opinion that flowers are not all derived from one common ancestral type. The common assumption is that they are. If this view is accepted, it will require the very radical revision of many currently accepted ideas of botanical evolution and classification.



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