

REVISION of our maps of the moon may be necessary as a result of the discovery of a series of craters and walled plains, near the edge of its visible disk by H. Percy Wilkins, British astronomer, who reports his new discoveries in the *Journal* of the British Astronomical Association. Occupying twenty degrees of latitude on the southeast edge of the moon, this tangle of walled valleys, craters and high peaks has escaped discovery for many years, chiefly because nobody looked there carefully enough until now. Commenting on Mr. Wilkins's discovery, Dr. Walter Goodacre, acting director of the society, recommended further observations of the moon's edges, which may lead to additional discoveries.

YEARS of drought, like the seven lean years of Joseph's Egypt, are due to grip the Great Basin area of the West, Dr. Ernst Antevs, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, prophesies in the new scientific publication of the American Geographical Society. Dr. Antevs has made a special study of climatic cycles that swing over long periods of time. He finds that the down curve in far western rainfall has already begun, and states that it is due to reach its climax in a terrific drought about ten years hence. The region for which Dr. Antevs makes his forecast lies between the Wasatch Mountains in the Sierras, comprising about 175,000 square miles in the states of California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho and Oregon. He feels that farmers and stockmen in this region should make long-range plans to meet the situation.

CHEMICALS even more potent than prontosil and sulfanilamide, in overcoming streptococcus and pneumonia infections in mice, are reported by Dr. Sanford M. Rosenthal and Hugo Bauer, of the U. S. National Institute of Health. Human trials have not yet been made of the new chemicals. Prontosil, product of the German dye industry, burst on the medical world a little over a year ago as a spectacular, life-saving remedy for deadly streptococcus infections of mothers following childbirth. Other human ills caused by the streptococcus and by various other bacteria were soon found to yield to prontosil. No sooner had reports of its usefulness in treating disease appeared than chemists in England, France and the United States began analyzing and trying to improve it. The first result of this research was the discovery that the related chemical, sulfanilamide, was as good as prontosil itself. Further research has developed chemicals that are 5 and 6 times as good as sulfanilamide when used to treat mice infected with streptococci. One of these chemicals, the formaldehyde sulfoxylate derivative of sulfanilamide prepared by Dr. Rosenthal and Mr. Bauer, has the advantage of being soluble in water. This should make it easier to use for treatment of infection since ampoules of the solution can be made up in advance and kept ready for use. Heretofore it has been necessary to dissolve the dry material just before using it.



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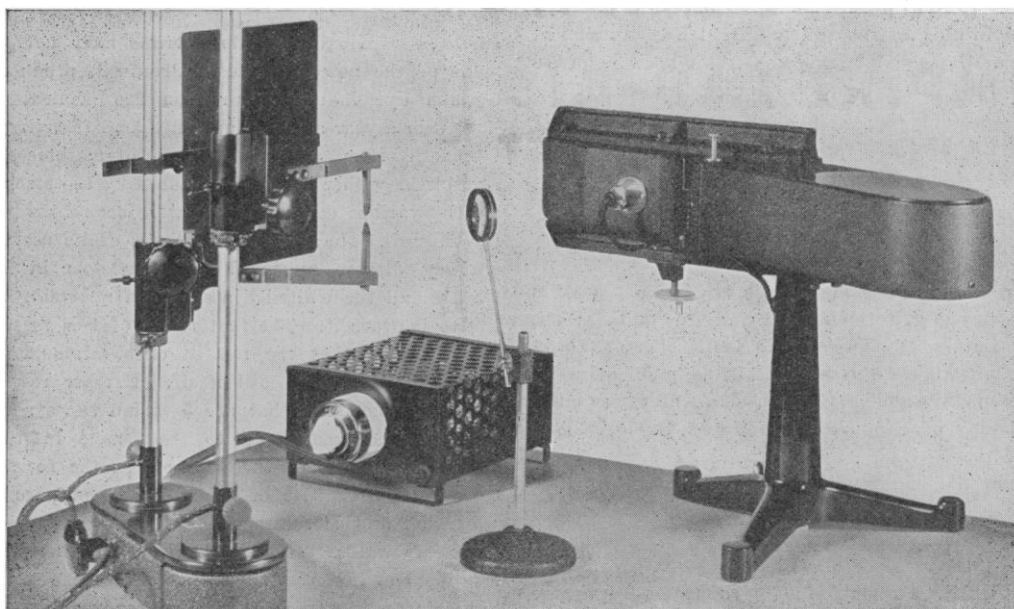
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