and would not forsake the technical advances in other countries for politics.

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At the recent meeting of the American Medical Association, L. Phillips Frohman, chairman of the section of general practice, warned that the atomic age in medicine is approaching at so rapid a pace that most physicians are not prepared for it. He commented that most physicians are "babes in the wood" about the effects of atomic radiation, largely because the information is not available. He pointed out that at the moment "we are ensnared in an incongruous situation" wherein the physical scientist controls the "atomic pile of education and knowledge," while the practicing physician passively stands aside.

Vault for the Future

Science and *The Scientific Monthly,* in company with such journals as the *Saturday Review of Literature* and *Newsweek,* will be buried in the Vault for the Future, which was dedicated on 20 June at George Washington University. The vault will preserve for 100 years records of modern engineering achievement. It is located beneath the walkway in front of the university's Tomkins Hall of Engineering, which is now nearing completion.

The vault will contain contributions from 20 Government agencies and national and local societies. Each group invited to participate will place selected materials in one of 24 copper boxes, which will be sealed in the vault and marked by a granite block surmounted by a bronze plaque.

The boxes will contain such diverse items as documents and photographs, research reports, strain gages, ball bearings, gas turbine blades, a gyroscope, and ball point pens. The university plans to open the vault 100 years from today, so that engineers then can see this record.

TB and the Yellow Bacillus

A disease that resembles tuberculosis but is caused by an unknown bacillus was reported in the June issue of the *American Review of Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Diseases* (vol. 73, No. 6), journal of the American Trudeau Society. Lawrence E. Wood, Victor B. Buhler, and Ann Pollak of the University of Kansas, describe 17 patients infected with an acid-fast type of bacillus that has the same shape as the tubercle bacillus but which produces yellow cultures, whereas the tubercle bacillus is colorless. Another distinguishing characteristic is that the yellow germ does not produce disease in the guinea pig, although this animal is highly susceptible to tuberculosis.

Among the 17 cases described six had died, but it is not known whether one death was related to the disease. Five of the deaths, however, could be attributed to the disease resulting from infection by the yellow bacillus. At the time the report was prepared, four patients were well, another four were still under treatment, and three were no longer available for study.

Again, the "Abominable Snowman"

The "abominable snowman" still haunts the Himalayas. This creature, variously regarded as a bear, as a monkey, as a giant ape surviving as a relic of the ice age, as an animal hitherto unknown to science, or even, by arrant scoffers, as a pure myth [*Science,* **123,** 1024 (8 June)], continues to make the headlines. An Associated Press dispatch from Katmandu, Nepal, dated 10 June, states that Himalayan villagers claim to have found the body of an "abominable snowman" imbedded in the ice of a crevasse at the foot of Mount Makalu, a 27,790-foot peak on the Tibetan-Nepalese border. Furthermore, according to this dispatch, Peter John Webster, a British tea planter, hopes to go to Mount Makalu next year to investigate the villagers' story.

Webster, who has climbed extensively in the Himalayas, only recently crossed 20,000-foot Ambu Lapcha Pass to join the Swiss expedition that conquered Mount Everest. Once, while high in the Himalayas, he heard a whistling sound, which his guides believed to be the wail of the "snowman." Search of the area, however, revealed no evidence of such a beast.

Webster is skeptical about the existence of an "abominable snowman"; but, with true scientific spirit, he intends to investigate the reported body in the ice beside Mount Makalu. One hopes that he will take along a camera. Yet, whatever he may or may not find, it is not to be expected that the "abominable snowman" will desist from his gambols in the Himalayan snows. He is too well established a poltergeist to do that.—W.L.S., JR.

Microwave Detection of Metallic Ions in Plant Material

Microwave developments during the war have made it possible to use microwave experiments widely, not only in physics and chemistry but even in biological investigations. H. Shields, W. B. Ard, and W. Gordy of Duke University report the "Detection of metallic ions and organic radicals in plant materials by microwaves" in the 26 May issue of *Nature.*

Materials taken from a plant or from the ground below were placed in a microwave absorption cell and studied at room temperature. In numerous plant substances, electron-magnetic resonances corresponding to those from manganese ions in aqueous solutions were detected (six equal components with a component spacing of 95 gauss). Therefore, the investigators conclude that the manganese ions found in plants may be dissolved in their water content.

In pine cones and pine needles, a single sharp line was superimposed on the manganese hyperfine structure. Similar resonances were found in fallen oak leaves, naturally dried ivy stems, and other apparently dead plant materials; this may be caused by bound or semibound oxygen.

A third type of resonance was observed in several plant materials. This was a broad resonance, which the authors tentatively attribute to cupric ions. Microwave detection of ions in plant material should become a useful tool for the plant physiologist or agriculturist.—K. L.-H.

Scientists in the News

JOHN J. DAVIS of Purdue University is retiring as head of the entomology department and the Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station after more than 35 years of service. He will be succeeded as head of the department by JOHN V. OSMUN.

W. ALBERT NOYES, dean of the University of Rochester graduate school, has been named acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He succeeds J. EDWARD HOFFMEISTER, who resigned the deanship in order to devote full time to the chairmanship of the department of geology and geography.

ALFRED M. BONGIOVANNI, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, has received the 1956 CIBA award of the Endocrine Society for outstanding research in human endocrine glands, particularly as they affect the development of the child. He was honored for his work on the chemical nature of adrenal cortex hormones and on the abnormalities in the biosynthesis of these hormones which lead to various adrenal diseases.

The award is made annually to a scientist under 35 years of age. It provides $1800, and $700 for expenses, should the winner decide to move to a laboratory other than his own for special research.