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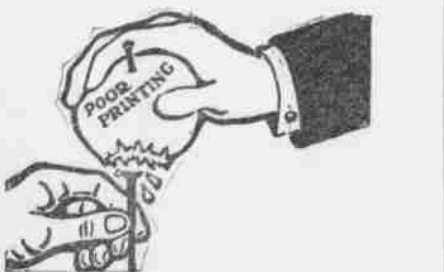
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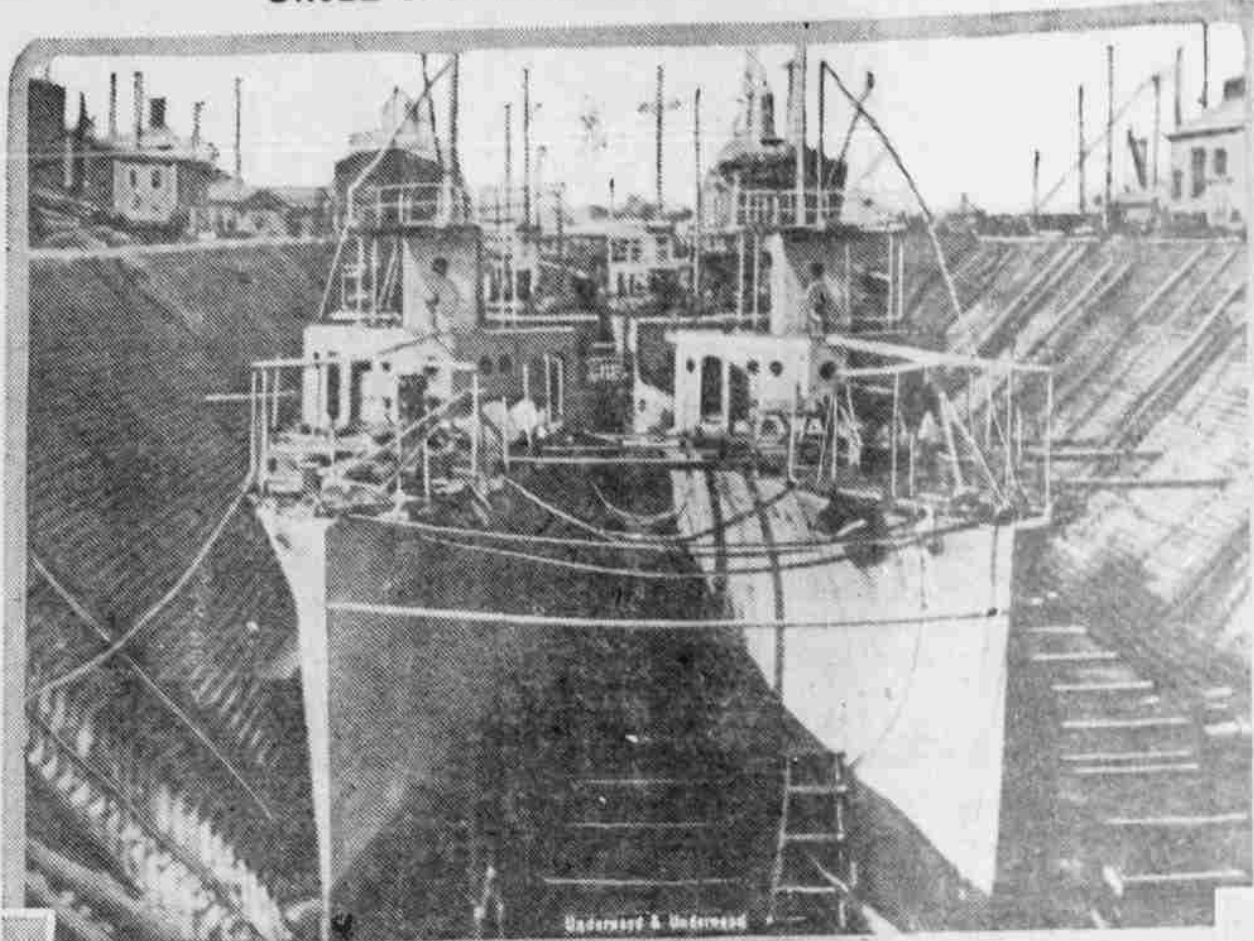
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UNCLE SAM WILL BUILD 300 OF THESE



View of two of the latest types of destroyers being built at Newport News, Va. More than 300 of these "torpedoes" are provided for in the navy's shipbuilding program.

**Hit Influenza at Its Source**

Dr. Simon Flexner Proposes  
Combating Dread Disease  
at Its Origin.

**EASTERN EUROPE PLAGUE SPOT**

Many Recorded Epidemics Shown to  
Have Emanated From That Area  
—Disease Claims More Victims  
Than European War.

New York.—According to Dr. Simon Flexner, Director of Laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, further recurrences of the influenza epidemic can be prevented only by wiping out the disease at its source. In a recent address before the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, later published by the American Medical Association, he outlined the path of the disease through its different stages.

"There are excellent reasons for regarding the endemic home of influenza to be Eastern Europe," he said, "and in particular the border regions between Russia and Turkestan. Many recorded epidemics have been shown more or less clearly to emanate from that area, while the epidemics of recent history have been traced there with a high degree of conclusiveness. From this Eastern home, at intervals of two or three decades, a migrating epidemic influenza begins, moving eastward and westward, with the greater velocity in the latter direction.

**Uncanny in Action.**  
"To the casual observer there is something uncanny in the way influenza strikes down its victims. While other epidemics proceed from bad to worse, with at least progressive increases in intensity, influenza seems to overwhelm communities over even wider stretches of territory as by a single, stupendous blow. While in the one case the gradually accelerating rate of speed of extension may be taken to indicate personal conveyance of the provoking micro-organism, in the other the sudden wide onset appears the very negation of personal communication.

"Hence the invoking of mysterious influences, the revival of the notion of miasm and similar agencies, to account for this phenomenon. Indeed, the public mind in general lends itself readily to such formless concepts, for the reason that there still resides in the mass of the people, even in the more enlightened countries, a large uneducated residue of superstition regarding disease. One does not need to look far or dig deep in order to uncover the source of this superstition. We have only recently emerged from a past in which knowledge of the origin of disease was scant, and such views as were commonly held and exploited were mostly fallacious. It is, indeed, very recently, if the transformation can be said to be perfect even now, that the medical profession as a whole has been completely emancipated. All this is very far from being a matter of remote importance only, since in the end the successful imposition of sanitary regulations involves wide cooperation; and until the majority of individuals composing a community is brought to a fair level of understanding of and belief in the measures proposed, serious and sustained endeavor to enforce them is scarcely to be expected.

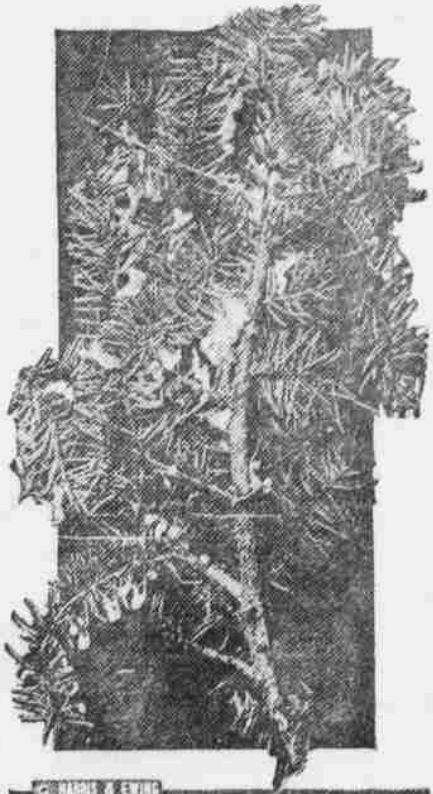
**Routing a Bugaboo.**  
"And yet no better instance of a communicable disease could perhaps be invoked than influenza to exercise the false idea of the mysterious origin of epidemics. To dwell solely on the sudden and overwhelming stroke of the disease is wholly to overlook the significant incidents that precede the mass infection, because they are of

matte quality. Accurate observers noted long ago that influenza in its epidemic form did not constitute an exception to the common rule governing epidemic diseases, which were obviously associated with persons and their migrations. What the early students made out by tracing the epidemic backward to its point of departure, more modern observers have confirmed by carefully kept records, often graphically compiled, as in the excellent instance of the Munich records covering the epidemic of 1889-92, which can now be supplemented by a number of similarly constructed records of the epidemic just passed. These detailed records show convincingly a period of invasion during which there is a gradual rise in the number of cases to culminate, within a period variously estimated at from one to three weeks, in a widespread, so-called 'explosive' outbreak of the disease.

"It happens that the early cases of epidemic influenza tend not to be severe, chiefly because they rarely are attended by pneumonia and hence are frequently mistaken, and the confusion in diagnosis is resolved only when the full intensity of the epidemic is realized. In the meantime, rich opportunity has been afforded for the free and unrestricted commingling of the sick and the well, of doubtless healthy carriers of the inciting agent and others, until so high a degree of dissemination of the provoking micro-organism has been secured as to expose the entire susceptible element of the population, which happens to be large, to an almost simultaneous response to the effects of the infecting microbe.

"Deductions of like import can be drawn from the geographic movements of influenza epidemics. In Eastern Russia and Turkestan, influenza spreads with the pace of a caravan. In Europe and America with the speed of an express train, and in the world at large with the rapidity of an ocean liner; and if one project forward the outcome of the means of intercom-

**SUGAR FOUND IN FIR TREES**



Discovery of the growth of sugar on Douglas fir trees in British Columbia is announced in the American Forestry Magazine. The discovery resulted from investigation by Prof. John Davidson of the University of British Columbia at Vancouver. Specimens are said to have indicated the presence of a large percentage of an extremely rare variety of sugar. Indians have made use of the sugar for many years. The illustration shows a fir tree branch with the sugar

manifestation of the near future, we may predict that the next pandemic, should one arise, will extend with the swiftness of an airship.

"Moreover, not only is this rate of spread determined by the nature of the transportation facilities of the region or the era, but towns and villages, mainland and island, are invaded early or late or preserved entirely from attack according as they lie within or without the avenues of approach or are protected by inaccessibility, as in instances of remote mountain settlements and of islands distant from ocean lanes or frozen in during winter periods.

**To Avert Recurrences.**  
"It is desirable, in the interest of clear thinking, to carry this consideration of the characteristics of epidemic influenza a step further. A feature of the epidemic disease of particular significance is the tendency to recur, that is, to return to a stricken region after an interval, usually of months of relative quiescence.

"Thus the beginning of the last pandemic in Europe and the United States has been traced to sporadic cases appearing in April, May and June, possibly even earlier in certain places, while the destructive epidemic raged during September, October and November of 1918. There are very good reasons for believing that in itself influenza is not a serious disease, but that its sinister character is given by the remarkable frequency with which it is followed, under particular circumstances by a concomitant or secondary pneumonia infection to which the severe effects and high mortality are traceable.

"The manner in which to fight diseases of this nature is, according to Dr. Flexner, one of 'central rather than peripheral control,' that is, fighting the disease at its source rather than waging a series of campaigns against it after it has spread to distant centers. To quote:  
"According to this proposal, an effort at control amounting even to eventual eradication of the disease in the regions of their endemic survival would be undertaken, an effort, indeed, not occasional and intensively spasmodic, as during the pandemic year—once, but continuous over relatively long periods, in the hope that the seed beds, as it were, of the disease might be destroyed.

"That such an effort at the eradication of a serious epidemic disease may be carried through successfully, the experience with yellow fever abundantly proves. In attacking that disease, the combat was not put off until its epidemic spread had begun, and until now territory, such as New Orleans, Jacksonville and Memphis, had been invaded; but the attack was made on its sources at Havana, Panama and near Guayaquil, to which endemic points the extensions into new and neutral territory had been traced.

**More Victims Than War.**

"In proposing to strive for the high achievement, not merely of parrying the blows struck by destructive epidemics, but of rendering them impotent to strike in the future, we may pause for a moment to reflect on the different ways in which peoples react to great calamities, such as those brought by war and by disease. As the results of a cruel and devastating war, revolutions in governments supposed the most stable may occur; no such result follows on still more devastating epidemics. The recent epidemic of influenza claimed, possibly, more victims than did the great war, and the losses to the world in emotion spent, treasure consumed, and progress impeded are incalculable; yet, through a fortuitous circumstance of psychology, from the one calamity the world may emerge chastened, perhaps even bettered, while from the other, because of a depth of ignorance amounting often to fatalism, mankind may largely miss the deep meaning of the lesson.

**Mules Show 'Horse Sense'**  
Owensboro, Ky.,—G. A. Potts, farmer, owes his life to his mules. Upended by the wind, a giant maple crashed across the seat of Potts' wagon. "The mules saw what was coming, bolted and landed Potts out of the seat in

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