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FAIL TO REMOVE SPONGES AFTER MAJOR OPERATIONS

Doctor Cites 200 Cases Where
Surgeons Were Negligent.

New York.—Advocating use of a continuous strip of gauze instead of sponges in surgical operations, Dr. H. S. Crossen says in the current issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association that he has listed a total of more than 200 cases in which a sponge was left in the abdominal cavity following an operation.

Some hospitals avoid this by having a string with a metal anchor attached to each sponge and left outside the body. Others make a count at the close of the operation of all sponges used, but this is not an infallible method, he said, because sponges sometimes are torn in two.

"The method," he said, "of attaching a tape to each sponge and then fastening the tape to the tape and at the same time to the abdominal sheet is probably the method in most general use. It has a record of many failures—the tape pulled off the sponge or there was a failure to attach the tape or the forceps failed to hold. In one recorded case the sponge, tape and forceps were all lost in the cavity."

Sewing up sponges often causes peritonitis and death. It is only in cases where postmortems are held that the presence of the sponge is detected, so that many such accidents are unrecorded. To persons outside the profession such an accident seems inexcusable, according to Doctor Crossen, who described some of the operating room conditions under which it occurred.

"Suffice it to say," he continued, "that a review of the cases in which dependence was placed on counting shows an appalling list in which a sponge was left because one was hastily torn in two and one half forgotten, or an extra one was primarily included in the bundle and missed in the counting, or an extra one was secured for an emergency during the operation, or some loose gauze, not intended for intraperitoneal use, slipped in while near the wound, or a mistake was made in the final count of sponges removed. It is astonishing what slight inattention may lead to a sponge being left, with all the consequences which such an accident entails."

Invents Device to Send Photos Via Wire or Radio



News photographs of important events, photographs of criminals and of finger prints, signatures for identification by banks—all these are dispatched by radio or by means of the new phototelegraph apparatus just completed by Marvin Ferrie, a newspaper man of Cleveland. The apparatus is simply operated, is inexpensive and may be operated from any newspaper office equipped with an engraving plant. Likewise, banks seeking immediate identification of signatures, police chiefs seeking trace or description of fugitives of the law may make use of the device that is very easily installed. The Ferrie phototelegraph instrument closely resembles a radio receiving set and occupies about the same amount of space. Ferrie has sent photos a distance of 900 to 1,000 miles via radio, and nearly 400 miles via wire. The principle employed is an electrochemical process consisting of two identical transmitting and receiving machines.

Artist Held for Tossing Pennies to Boy Diver

New York.—Angelo Conco, an artist of 280 Third avenue, was arraigned before Magistrate McKinley in night court on a charge of disorderly conduct after he had been arrested for throwing pennies into the fountain in Madison Square, for which a small boy was diving.

Bishop Gives \$15,000 Gift to His Church

Philadelphia.—Rt. Rev. Philip M. Rhinelander, Episcopal bishop of Pennsylvania, received a testimonial fund of \$15,000 recently from the diocese in recognition of his twelve years' Episcopate here. The bishop designated that the fund be used for the permanent endowment of a cathedral in this diocese. Personal friends of Bishop Rhinelander also presented a handsome gold watch.

HANS WEICHSEL



Hans Weichsel, St. Louis engineer, inventor of a new electric motor which will save, through utilization of idle current, millions of dollars a year.

BRANCH BANKING IS HELD ILLEGAL

Washington, D. C.—The right of a state to prevent national banks within its borders from establishing branch banking establishments was upheld by the supreme court which at the same time ruled that the same prohibition was contained in the federal statutes themselves.

The court's decision, which settles a controversy that has shaken the banking world for many months, was handed down in the case of the First National bank of St. Louis. The bank had demurred from a Missouri state law prohibiting it from establishing branches, and, losing in the lower federal court, had appealed. The decision of the lower court was affirmed.

Eighteen states had joined Missouri in maintaining the right of the state governments to prevent national banks from indulging in branch banking. The court not only upheld that right, but held that the St. Louis bank case had been properly brought and that the Missouri law was not in conflict with federal statutes.

BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

A measure was introduced in the Greek national assembly declaring the Gluckburg dynasty—the reigning house—defunct.

The total value of livestock on the farms and ranges of the United States January 1 was estimated by the department of agriculture at \$4,912,907,000.

Bert E. Haney of Oregon was confirmed by the senate as a member of the shipping board, along with Frederick Thompson of Alabama and W. S. Hill of South Dakota.

Secret diplomacy will have no place in the dealings of Great Britain's new premier, Ramsay MacDonald, with foreign countries. Mr. MacDonald intends that the public shall be informed of foreign negotiations whenever the circumstances warrant.

John F. Stevens, who designed plans for the Panama canal and well known on the Pacific coast, where he is representative of the Hill interests, is to become chief consulting and construction engineer for a projected line in South America that will be built from Bogota to the Atlantic coast.

Montana Students Admit Mail Theft. Missoula, Mont.—R. A. Heller, 21, Boston; Bernard Quenell, 21, Kallispell, and Robert Ackler, 19, Butte, three University of Montana students who were arrested in connection with the robbery of the Missoula postoffice of a registered mail pouch containing \$25,000 consigned to one of the Missoula banks, appeared before United States Commissioner Wallace P. Smith and entered pleas of guilty. Their bonds were set at \$2500 each.

Monopoly Charged in Radio Apparatus. Washington, D. C.—Principal corporations engaged in manufacture and distribution of radio equipment and the rendering of radio service were charged in a federal trade commission complaint with creating and maintaining a monopoly in radio apparatus and communications.

Bandits Take \$100,000 in Boats. Hammond, Ind.—A gang of between 20 and 30 bandits loaded two automobile trucks with whiskey at the warehouse of the Hammond Distilling company and sped away. The liquor is valued at about \$100,000.

G. N. Income Nearly Doubled. New York.—Net income of the Great Northern Railway company for 1923 is estimated in the preliminary report of the president at \$18,000,000, as compared with \$10,856,678 in 1922.

PRESIDENT MOVES IN OIL LEASE CASE

Coolidge Says Special Counsel
Will Be Engaged to Proceed
in Courts.

Washington, D. C.—President Coolidge has decided to employ special counsel drawn from both the republican and democratic parties to proceed with court action as a result of evidence adduced at the senate committee hearings on the leasing of naval oil leases.

In a statement issued the president declared that "counsel will be instructed to prosecute these cases in the courts so that if there is any guilt it will be punished; if there is any civil liability it will be enforced; if there is any fraud it will be revealed, and if there are any contracts which are illegal they will be cancelled."

A resolution urging the president to institute proceedings for annulment of both the Sinclair and Doheny contracts was before the senate.

Another resolution, requesting the president to call for the resignation of Secretary Denby because of his part in the leasing programme, was introduced by Senator Robinson, Arkansas, the democratic leader.

Removal of Denby Asked. The resolution proposing the resignation of Secretary Denby was offered after demands that he quit the cabinet had been made by Senator Walsh, democrat, Montana.

A somewhat similar attack on Attorney-General Daugherty was made in the house by Representative Garrett, Tennessee, the democratic leader.

Before the same committee which E. L. Doheny, California oil magnate, told he had loaned Mr. Fall \$100,000 on his personal note while Fall was secretary of the interior, J. W. Zevely, personal counsel to Harry F. Sinclair, testified that Mr. Sinclair had loaned Mr. Fall \$25,000 in liberty bonds on a personal note three months after he retired from the cabinet.

As the testimony now stands, the Doheny loan was made more than a year before the Doheny interests obtained the lease of the Elk Hills, Cal., naval reserve, while the Sinclair loan was made more than a year after the Sinclair interests received the lease of the Teapot Dome, Wyo., reserve.

Earned Income Gains Relief. Income taxpayers got their first slice of the proposed tax relief when the house ways and means committee adopted the recommendation of Secretary Mellon to allow a special 25 per cent reduction in the tax on incomes which are "earned."

All taxable incomes under \$5000 were defined as "earned" for purposes of this reduction, while \$20,000 was set as the maximum amount of income on which the reduction could be taken.

Treasury estimates show that about 13,000,000 taxpayers have incomes of less than \$5000 and automatically could deduct from their tax when computed 25 per cent of its total.

The rate changes repealing some of the miscellaneous or nuisance taxes instituted during the war were effected by non-partisan votes in committee and included some suggestions of both the Mellon and democratic plans.

Secretary Mellon's recommendation that husbands and wives be prohibited from dividing family incomes for purposes of filing separate tax returns as allowed in eight states, was voted down by the house ways and means committee.

Farm Relief Urged. Moved by the increasing acuteness of the economic situation in the central west, President Coolidge sent to congress a special message outlining steps for relief and quickened efforts of the federal government to prevent further bank failures in that section.

The chief executive in his message presented five methods for "organized cooperation on the part of the federal government and the local institutions of that territory."

Congress, he declared, should extend financial assistance through a federal agency to promote diversification in farming by the wheat growers and lengthen from March 31 to December 31, 1924, the period during which the war finance corporation may make loans.

The Norbek Buttruss bill, providing financial relief for farmers in areas stricken by crop failure, was ordered favorably reported by the senate agriculture committee.

The committee approved an amendment by Senator Harrison, democrat, Mississippi, which would increase the appropriation carried from \$50,000,000 to \$75,000,000 and make the additional available for farmers generally in stead of only wheat growers.

The treaty between the United States and Great Britain to extend the right of search and seizure beyond the three mile limit as a means of checking rum running off American coasts was signed at the state department by Secretary of State Hughes and Sir Auckland Geddes, the British ambassador.

LENINE IS BURIED AT MOSCOW

People Stand For Hours in
Bitter Cold to Pay Honor
to Dead Ruler.

Moscow.—Vladimir Hytch Ullanoff, whom the world knew as Nicolai Lenin, was entombed Sunday afternoon.

The followers of the ruler of soviet Russia hailed him as greater in death than in life and paid him honors that a king might envy. They withstood for hours the bitterest cold the Bolshevik capital has known in years. Half a million people marched or waited for eight hours in a temperature 30 below zero for the privilege of passing the temporary mausoleum, a squat Asiatic structure, like the tomb of a Tartar khan, hastily built under the walls of the Kremlin fortress.

Lenine's funeral was like a strange medieval painting of a great Tartar horde on a crusade march, its red and black banners obscured by the smoke of campfires and blurred by the steam of the bodies of men and horses and fog which the cold air had turned into a dull Arctic cloud.

The mausoleum was specially built to maintain a minimum temperature to preserve the body as long as possible, but many sought shelter in its cold depths to warm themselves.

DENBY DECLARES HE WILL NOT RESIGN

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Denby announced after a cabinet meeting at which the oil lease investigation was considered, that he had "no intention whatever of resigning at the present time."

"I am so convinced I did the right thing that I would do it again tomorrow regardless of the consequences," the secretary said. "I feel that I carried out the will of congress and my activities served the best interests of the people. Accordingly I have nothing to regret and no reason to resign."

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, whose name also has been prominent in the investigation, was declared by Denby to be "entirely and absolutely in the clear."

"Colonel Roosevelt has nothing to be criticized for in the transactions. I approved them with full knowledge and I accept complete responsibility. Mr. Roosevelt is in no wise responsible for the action taken."

RAISE IN FEES IS OPPOSED

F. J. Hagenbarth Re-elected President of Wool Growers.

Salt Lake City.—With the reelection of Frank J. Hagenbarth as president, the 59th convention of the National Wool Growers' association closed. Mr. Hagenbarth has been president since 1912. Resolutions declaring that the proposed forest service plan to increase the grazing fee should be fought and that congressional action make such a rise forever impossible, were passed by the convention. A request to congress, to the tariff commission and to President Coolidge that the tariff on raw materials be left as it now is was passed in the form of a resolution. The convention also went on record favoring the McNary-Haugen bill which is designed to create an export corporation to systematically export the excess of agricultural products.

Organization of cooperative wool marketing associations by states was urged.

Half Billion Acres Yet Unsurveyed. Washington, D. C.—Government surveys have yet to focus their instruments on more than a half a billion acres of the public domain, according to the interior department. A total of 375,162,000 acres in Alaska and 151,106,769 acres in the western states remain unsurveyed.

California Drought Is Broken. San Francisco.—The drought which threatened to ruin California's 1924 crop prospects was broken by a steady rainfall throughout northern California Saturday. It was the first rain of any importance to fall generally over northern California since last April.

Sentence Is Passed on Banker Sinclair. Chehalis, Wash.—Percy L. Sinclair, state senator, was sentenced in the Lewis county superior court here to 18 months to three years in the penitentiary for holding a false official report of the Northwest Washington bank at Chehalis of which he was president.

Johnson Protests Minnesota Meet. Washington, D. C.—A protest against the selection of the Minnesota republican delegation to Cleveland at a convention instead of a primary was telegraphed to St. Paul by Hiram Johnson.

LOCATE SITE OF REPTILIAN LIFE



Henry R. Robinson, Los Angeles banker, is the American member of the committee to examine German funds in foreign lands for the reparations commission.

FARMERS ASKED TO TELL NEEDS

Washington, D. C.—Farmers of the northwest were called upon in a message sent out by a group of nine senators—republicans, democrats and farmer-laborers—to get together on farm legislation and tell congress just what they want.

"We believe the Norris-Sinclair bill will meet the situation, help the farmers reduce the cost of living," said the message. "We want your opinion."

"Congress wants to know what the farmers really want. Will you tell them?"

"We urge that meetings be held by farmers in each precinct not later than February 1."

"If you are interested, get together, adopt resolutions, suggest petitions and send them to Washington as soon as possible. Let us hear from you."

The message was signed by Senators Ladd and Frazier, North Dakota; Brookhart, Iowa; La Follette, Wisconsin; Wheeler, Nebraska, republicans; Wheeler, Montana, and Dill, Washington, democrats, and Johnson and Shipstead, Minnesota, farmer-laborer.

CURB ON QUACKS IS ASKED

California Medical Officer Requests Probe of Fake Diplomas.

Sacramento, Cal.—Convinced by evidence unearthed in the California probe of medical "diploma mills" that the traffic in fake degrees extends over the entire Pacific coast, Dr. C. B. Pinkham, executive officer of the state board of medical examiners, dispatched a letter to U. C. Coe, secretary of the Oregon board of medical examiners, asking the assistance of the Oregon commission in curbing the activities of quack physicians.

Dr. Pinkham also communicated with Fred J. Dibble, director of licenses for the state of Washington, asking that a probe of mushroom medical colleges be launched in that state.

Oregon Fire Losses \$4,913,968. Salem, Ore.—Fire losses in Oregon for the year 1923 aggregated \$4,913,968 according to the annual report prepared by the state fire marshal.

Cow of Stone Age Unearthed in West. Dredgers working in a western river recently have uncovered what is believed to be the skull of a broad-faced cow which had been buried for at least 50,000 years below the bottom of the stream, says Popular Mechanics.

The animal to which the fossil belonged, scientists say, was the forerunner of the buffalo, the cow and others of the bovine family. Horns measuring 20 inches around their base still were attached to the specimen.

Fly 100 Miles an Hour. Four miles in three minutes is the estimated speed of the carrier pigeons, which many bird students believe is the most consistently fast flier among birds. In a recent test at Ghent these pigeons made 100 miles an hour. Plover, godwits and curlews have been known to fly to feeding grounds 22,000 miles away in a single flight. The osprey, or sea hawk, has almost unbelievable speed in swooping down upon its prey.

She Was Experienced. The tramp encountered the lady of the house on her front doorstep, and, whining in the approved manner, he exclaimed:

"It's needless to ask you the question, madam; you know what I want."

The lady—Yes, I know what you want badly, but I've only one cake of soap in the house and the servant is using that!—London Answers.

LOCATE SITE OF REPTILIAN LIFE

"Paleontological Garden of Eden"
Is Discovered by Explorers
in Mongolia.

New York.—A 23-year-old prophecy that the origin of the reptilian and mammalian life of the world would be found in central Asia has been confirmed by fossil discoveries in central and western Mongolia made by the Asiatic expedition sent out from the American Museum of Natural History here. A "paleontological Garden of Eden" was found that gave forth indisputable evidence of the soundness of the theory, propounded in 1900 by Prof. Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the museum.

These discoveries were made public here by Roy Chapman Andrews, leader of the Asiatic expedition and associate curator of mammals of the Eastern hemisphere at the museum, in an interview arranged through the courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History and Asia Magazine, under whose auspices the expedition was inaugurated.

The data accumulated by Mr. Andrews and his co-workers on the expedition include:

1. Definite proof that at the time when Europe and America were half-formed continents, barely emerging from the sea what is now central Asia and Tibet was a beautiful and fertile plateau land, abounding in vegetable and animal life.

2. Confirmation of the assertion that a broad land connection between Asia and America by way of Alaska has existed, geologically speaking, up until recent times. Remains of mammals known to have kept to the land, and whose fossilized descendants have been found in America, were brought to light by the expedition.

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4. Although no direct evidence was found bearing on the ancestry of man, the theory of his central Asian origin was strongly reinforced. It is believed that the forerunners of the human race would have found a favorable environment for development in the type of country which existed during Tertiary times in what is now Mongolia.

5. A find of 25 specimen eggs of the dinosaur, a large reptile of the lower Cretaceous period, was made by George Olsen, a paleontologist on the staff of the expedition. These are the first dinosaur eggs ever known to the world, although several natural scientists have conjectured that the reptile laid eggs. Inside several of them, which are estimated to be from 70,000 to 100,000 years old, were found the skeletons of embryonic dinosaurs. Some of the eggs were in almost perfect condition.

Dinosaur's Ancestor. Mr. Andrews declared that the American nation had a unique scientific collection in the 70 skulls of the protoceratops, which show the development of the animal from shortly after birth to old age. The protoceratops was discovered in Mongolia and proved to be ancestral to the great horned dinosaur of America, he said.

Last year the Asiatic expedition gave to the world the skull of the largest herbivorous animal ever known. This was the Baluchitherium, which resembled a giant rhinoceros. Within the last few months the expedition added to this find a splendid skull of the largest flesh-eating mammal heretofore discovered. According to the reconstruction of experts with the expedition, it was a huge hyena-like animal, 30 feet in length, 6 or 7 feet high, and with a jaw spread of about 2 feet. It is thought that it fed on carrion. The skull bears a resemblance to that of the megalonyx, specimens of which have been found in the Uinta mountains in Utah.

The Asiatic expedition has now been running for three years, and is scheduled to run for two more. But to stop work in Mongolia, "the largest and richest fossil field in the world," after only two more years, would be abandoning a veritable gold mine of data, declared Mr. Andrews. His presence in New York is prompted by a desire to continue the work for five years more and the consequent necessity of financing the extended project, he explained.

Man Meets Death in Blazing Oil Room. East Tawas, Mich.—John A. McCaug, twenty-three years old of McCaug City, suffered an electric shock while at work in an oil room at the Five Channel dam on the Au Sable. The room became a mass of flames and McCaug was burned terribly over his entire body. He died three hours later. He was conscious until death.

Man Escaped Death, Then Fined. Defiance, O.—Walter Rehoy of near Shergwood, was fined \$100 and costs in Justice George W. Killey's court here after being found guilty of driving while intoxicated.

His machine went over a 25-foot embankment into the Maumee river, but he and Oscar Parlee, his companion, escaped injury. The latter was assessed \$100 and costs for transporting liquor.