

SCIENCE STUDENTS MAKING INTERESTING EXPERIMENTS

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ments that are found during the year in the science building. But just now the Bio-Chemistry class of eight students is doing some work that might be of general interest. Each member of the class chose an experiment from a list of suggestions, and they are working away now to finish in the next two weeks.

Perhaps Eleanor Stafford's experiment would be the "newest" on to you. Did you know that a lack of amino-acid causes arthritis? Well, I didn't; so maybe you, too, could learn something about that from Eleanor or Mr. Higgins. Of course, you know what arthritis is, and your hygiene class should have taught you the meaning of amino-acid. The Georgetown University made the discovery of the relation of these two things, and now Eleanor is extracting amino-acid cystine from human hair. In order to familiarize herself with the cystine crystals. Cystine is an amino-acid containing sulphur; so because of that, a deficiency of it may be treated by injections of sulphur or by the old-fashioned spring tonic of sulphur and molasses. This cystine may also be prepared from silk or wool, but its most natural source is human hair; so that it what Eleanor is using. Determination of the quantity of the cystine in the hair or finger-nails of a human being indicates the presence or absence of arthritis.

Two girls in the class are working on diabetes. Janet Stimpson and Elizabeth Hedgecock are reading everything in that line and then making the most modern and out-

standing tests for its diagnosis. At the present time, because of careful laboratory control and experimentation, scarcely a single person dies of diabetes, though its victims are never cured. The laboratory picture that these two girls are getting would enable a hospital dietician to check on the hospital laboratory to see that her patient is receiving proper care from that department of the hospital.

Bill Fulton is working on enzymes. As a dietician, Bill is interested in how body enzymes act on various foods and what foods to feed to get a desired condition in the body.

Virginia Griffin is "playing" with white rats. Her project includes a study of all the vitamins, but she is experimenting only with Vitamins B-1 and B-2 on her rats. Vitamin B-1 is the anti-Beri Beri vitamin, to combat that nerve disease; B-2 is the anti-Pellagra vitamin, used in combating that skin eruption which is rather common in the South. Virginia is using 38 rats which weigh from thirty to fifty grams, adult rats are too slow in showing results of diet experimentation, so half-grown rats are the preferred sizes. Because of more reliable result differences the best rats for experimentation are ones from the same litter; some of Virginia's are. Virginia has a male and female each on the same diet, but each pair is on a different diet. Some of them get a balanced diet, and the others get diets that are deficient to varying degrees in the two vitamins concerned. Virginia weighs the rats at definite periods and notes the symptoms of deficiency in both male and

female to watch the results.

Lois Berkey is making laboratory tests for the diagnosis and treatment of nephritis, a kidney disease. She is reading the whole story of the disease to find the causes and effects of this human ailment.

The chemistry of the urine is Carlotta Ogburn's problem right now. She is studying the pathogenic, or diseased, and the normal urine in order to see just what physiological information can be obtained from this material.

Dr. Robert Walker is working on the chemistry of the blood. He makes numerous chemical tests to study pathogenic blood and learn what amounts of various and certain chemicals indicate the kind and severity of different diseases.

The work of all eight of these students overlaps to some extent, but the experiments of the last three coincide especially. Lois must study urine and blood both to find what she wants to know; Carlotta is likely to find out some things about nephritis from her work with the chemistry of urine; and Dr. Walker, too, may run into some nephritis symptoms in his blood tests. Janet Stimpson and Elizabeth Hedgecock must have some work with both blood and urine to learn about Diabetes. Though these laboratory workers' projects do lap, each one carries his work farther in a certain line or field than the other seven do.

"Is this the secondhand shop?"

"Yes."

"Good. I want a second hand for my watch."

DR. THAELE TELS OF HOSPITAL LIFE IN NICARAGUA

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flocked forward. On the first day twenty-nine people were treated.

Dr. Thaeler's first operation was performed in an old school house with a leaky thatched roof. To sterilize the surgical dressings and rubber gloves, Dr. Thaeler and his assistants put them into the oven of a kitchen stove. Upon opening the oven later, Dr. Thaeler found the dressings scorched and the gloves melted! But in spite of the leaky roof, scorched dressings and melted gloves, the patient recovered. Another "first" was the crude operating table (made by Dr. Thaeler himself). Some thirty operations were performed on this table — the last operation being upon a six-weeks old pig.

When the hospital was first opened it was over-crowded; and the buildings often had to house the patient's family who had made the journey with him. Today there is a boarding house which relieves much of the congestion.

At first Dr. Thaeler had to serve as doctor, nurse, and general utility man. Natives and Americans assisted where ever they could. Now there are graduate nurses in charge who are capable of attending to many of the duties and except in cases of emergency, do all the night work.

Patients come to the hospital with all sorts of diseases; the most common being malaria. Since the establishment of the hospital, Dr. Thaler has cared for 10,000 patients with malaria. Much also has been done in administering worm medicine particularly to children. Skin diseases

are very prevalent. But in most cases they can be cured by a diligent application of soap and water — a method which Dr. Thaeler says the natives are reluctant to use.

The clinic begins in the morning at 7:30 o'clock with a worship service and has been preceded by morning check-up and visits in the hospital. The daily attendance ranges from 30 to 70 patients and these are cared for in a five-hour period.

After lunch surgery patients are provided for. Every conceivable kind of ailment is treated, except advanced stages of cancer. A period in the afternoon is set aside for class room work when the student nurses receive their training.

Bilwas is isolated, but Dr. Thaler says that he and his family are never bored or lonely. There are always American guests visiting the hospital; and on Tuesdays and Thursdays the plane brings the mail. These mail-days are red-letter days on the calendar. Dr. Thaeler says that in his three years of married life in Nicaragua, he and his wife have had only three meals alone. He is never given the chance to be lonely.

Life is full of thrills for Dr. Thaeler, but he said that his biggest thrill came four years ago when he tuned in on station WBT and heard the Moravian Easter Service broadcast from Salem.

Some girls burn the candle at both ends because they seem to need more than one flame in their lives.



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