

SHOULD THE FARMER USE THE RADIO WHEN AT WORK

(Philadelphia Bulletin)

Nobody should object to the farmer having a little innocent fun. If he is getting like the rest of us in refusing to allow business to interfere with pleasure we cannot complain. So we are not even shocked when we see a picture of a plowman—or even a harrowman or a manure spreader—with an antenna rigged above the instrument while he is driving around his field, listening to a radio that accompanies him wherever he goes and help him to while away the time.

We are not so sure that all-day contact with jazz, crooners and persons who tell you how to make pies, to keep your hair beautiful, and how to reduce your weight is going to make the farmer a more solid citizen. His occupation has heretofore enabled him to spend much time in contemplation. His mind is not vacant as he cultivates his soil. It dwells upon what he sees around him, upon phenomena of Nature that the city man cannot interpret because he has never closely observed them, upon the political, economic and even religious problems of the day. The rest of us spend too little time in reflection, from snap judgements and are too often wrong. But a farmer with a radio dining in his ears is not going to think; he is more likely to wiggle and jiggle; and it would not be surprising if his furrows are not as straight as they used to be.

One may suspect that since radio has pushed its way into the front seat of the automobile and now considers itself a legitimate attachment of the plow it will presently try to horn in on the business and manufacturers. If the horny-handed son of toil can do his stuff to the music of the air, why not the typist? A loud speaker hooked up to the typewriter would not interfere at all with the spelling and punctuation of some typists, and it would make work much more attractive. It would only be in keeping with the trend of modern events if the sewing machine in the sweatshop, the lathe in the factory and the loom in the mill were all equipped with listening apparatus so that we might have contented workers as well as contented cows.

Just the same, we would not like to be operated upon by a surgeon whose attention was concentrated on some wisecracker in the studio of a broadcasting station, nor should we care to ride behind a locomotive driven by a man who was absorbed in following a political speech. There are a few occupations left—even if steering a car is not one of them—that call for strict attention to business. It would be just too bad if a pharmacist filling a prescription containing strychnine should put in an ounce instead of a grain because he was trying to pick up the air of a catchy new song or if the warden of a prison for the same reason should absent-mindedly elec-

DR. DITMARS SAYS THERE ARE SEA SERPENTS AND THEY ARE OF A DEADLY TYPE

(New York Sun)

Ever since the first man ventured on the seas, he has frightened himself and thrilled the landlubbers by the tales of sea serpents. The creatures described by the wandering adventurers, the ships' captains and the admitted fictionists, for lack of definite proof of their existence, have generally been assigned to a place among dragons, unicorns, roes and other fabulous monsters. Nevertheless, there are serpents and they rank among the deadliest of living things. Nor are they rarities.

True sea-serpents—scientists call them Hydrophiinae—are closely related to such lethal snakes as the cobras and kraits of Asia and Africa, and those dainty, gorgeously colored little "winds of death," the New World coral snakes.

The serpents of the subfamily Hydrophiinae, according to Dr. Ditmars in "Reptiles of the World," abound in the Indian Ocean and the western tropical Pacific Ocean. A

trocote a visitor instead of a condemned murderer.

They say we are going to have more leisure. Some of it at least ought to be used in cultural activities. And if we are to work less, it might be well to work with more efficiency. Can the thing be done by adding distractions—until such time as Providence equips us with two brains?

single species occurs in the tropical waters of the New World, off the western coast of Lower California, Mexico, Central and South America. They are strictly marine—living entirely in the water—and are very poisonous.

"While the existence of marine monsters, such as are occasionally noted upon the logs of leisurely moving vessels must be open to speculation," says Dr. Ditmars, "there exists many species of true sea-serpents; though these actual creatures do not attain the length usually cited in the average newspaper yarn, exhibit the outlines of a dragon or spout like a whale, they grow to a fair size for snakes—six or eight feet.

"They are for the most part of striking coloration and provided with fangs and a venom so virulent their rank must be among the most deadly of poisonous snakes. The poison produces a strong numbing influence on the nerve centres, which character is associated with the poison of the deadly cobras and their allies."

In the water of the Malay Archipelago and the Indian Ocean these sea snakes are frequently seen swimming, far from land, in large schools. Many a tale—far more thrilling than those usually related of fabulous sea monsters—is told in the Singapore cafes of swimmers who have encountered the real sea serpents, suddenly finding themselves surrounded by the gaudy creatures, staring at him with their beady, cold eyes, then vanishing as suddenly as they appeared. These tales are probably fanciful also, for it would be a rash man who ventures to swim in the shark and snake infested waters of the Archipelago.

Although the New World has only one species of sea serpent, the creatures are a common sight in the bays

MAN'S APPROACHING DEATH FORETOLD BY INSTRUMENT MORE ACCURATELY THAN BY DOCTOR

Cambridge, Mass., July 18—The spectroscopic examination of human blood, which records the birth and the decay of stars, can also foretell the approaching death of man.

A spectroscopic death curve, which forecasts a human death were accurately than the physicians, was described today to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Spectroscopic Conference, which is meeting here this week to discuss both practical and scientific uses of this instrument.

The report was made by P. and M. Lecomte De Noup, of the Pasteur Institute, France. M. De Noup did not attend, but mailed his paper to Professor George R. Harrison, chairman of the conference.

"Curve" in Blood

The death curve was found in a spectroscopic examination of human blood. Spectroscopic curves are like city skylines, such as New York and London, which reveal wide architectural differences, which never would be mistaken for each other, and which an expert would never forget.

In this way the Pasteur Institute scientist and his colleagues have been studying the structural nature of blood. They have analyzed, he reported about 8,000 samples. These included the blood of men, horses and sheep.

Only the serum or else the plasma, both colorless substances, were used. Although his portion of the blood appears colorless to the eye, it has considerable "color" in the invisible ultra-violet light. This unseen color shows its presence by absorbing some of the light which is passed through the plasma or serum into a spectroscopic.

The absorption shows as lines on the spectograph and these lines are used to plot a curve of the blood.

Remarkable Constancy

"The curves," M. De Noup's report states, "show remarkable constancy, whether man, horse or sheep serum is used.

"Alterations in the curves must correspond to very deep chemical modifications affecting the chromophoric (color) elements which belong to very stable chemical groups.

"We predicted a man's death, which followed in 24 hours. He was partly paralyzed, owing to a malignant tumor of the spine, with metastases in the lower jaw, and urinary infection. He was expected to live, however, for many months."

M. DeNoup does not say how sensitive a death barometer he finds this blood curve.

"Only important departures from the average," he states, "should be safely interpreted as an indication of pathologic disturbances. Such alterations are rare and seem to correspond to fatal cases."

Lead in Brains

Lead detected in human brains by aid of the spectroscopic was described by Jacob Chulak, of the University of Cincinnati.

The Cincinnati investigations add to the medical evidence developed at other scientific institution of the wide distribution of lead in the human body, in amounts that some medical authorities say is too slight to be harmful to health.

The fanciful idea of "leaden brains" being true in a literal sense appears well founded from the Cincinnati

and off-shore waters of Mexico and Central America. This species is known to science as Hydrys platurus, and to the layman as the Yellow-Bellied Sea Snake. The upper half of its body is jet black or rich brown, while the lower part is brilliant yellow.

spectroscope. Mr. Chulak found in the brains of a man ill with too much lead a percentage of three tenths per 100 grams of brain. Lead also has been found in smaller amounts in other brains.

The probable wide spread of lead is supported by the Cincinnati spectroscopic with detection of definite quantities in hearts, lungs, blood and spinal serum.

Search Goes On

An examination of 10,000 chemicals in the search for something to multiply the curative effects of X-rays and radium on cancer was reported by Dr. Ellice McDonald, of the University of Pennsylvania.

This search was for liquids that may be injected or otherwise caused to reach the site of a cancer, and there produce ultra-violet light when X-rays or radium are focussed on the growth.

Dr. McDonald described ultra-violet rays, seen with the aid of a quartz microscope, which kill living cells within a few seconds. These particular ultra-violet rays, he said, form "the most deadly radiation yet discovered." They are limited to a narrow band of wave lengths.

If chemicals can be found which will emit these specially destructive rays under bombardment of X-rays and radium, Dr. McDonald said they should be important for cancer treatment.

Among the 10,000 chemicals he said a number have been found which do give off the fatal ultra-violet. Such chemicals to be useful must be liquids and also non-poisonous to living tissues. The liquids have been found and there are indications that some of them may be non-poisonous.

SIX KILLED IN A COLLISION AT MONTREAL

Street Car and Motor Truck Crash in North- ern Part of City—Nine Injured.

Montreal, July 17—Funeral candles flickered in a half dozen Jewish homes here tonight as relatives mourned five men and a girl instantly killed in the early morning when a crowded motor truck collided with a street car. Nine others were injured as the truck returning from the Laurentian Mountains, heavily laden with passengers and miscellaneous freight, met the street car with terrific impact.

All the dead and most of the injured were members of Montreal's Jewish colony. Relatives claimed their dead at the city morgue after Coroner Lorenzo Prince had opened an inquest so that the victims might be identified and cause of death formally established. The jury viewed the mutilated bodies and then adjourned the hearing until July 24.

The six people killed were spilled from the truck as it reeled away from the street car after the impact, men and women rolling about the pavement in agony. Leo Dupuis, street car motorman, and E. Roberge, one of his three passengers, were the only occupants of the street car injured.

Eddie Cantor says it's the big bad producer, not the screen actor, who is responsible for objectionable films. The actor merely does as he is told, with his fingers crossed.

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