

anterior lobe of the pituitary gland. Machnow, a Russian, was exhibited in London in 1905, at the age of twenty-three; he stood 9 feet, 3 inches in height and weighed 360 pounds. Magrath, the famous Irish giant, had a pituitary as large as a hen's egg. On the other hand, certain noted dwarfs have been known to have small pituitary glands.

The organs of our bodies contain many principles and their study is opening up a new chapter in medicine and in life. Gland therapy is just in its infancy, and great discoveries may be expected in this field. There are many mysteries connected with the numerous principles of our bodies and with the complicated molecular changes that accompany the growth of living matter.

We are such stuff
As dreams are made of, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep.

Brazilian Tree Yields Leprosy-Curing Oil. The oil of a well-known Brazilian tree has been found effective in the treatment of leprosy and not as painful for the patient as chaulmoogra oil which has been used for centuries in leprosy cases in the Orient.

Dr. Antenor Machado, who has made a study of this new product, finds that it resembles chaulmoogra oil in many respects but that its acids have fewer methyl radicals which, he believes, are the chemical groups that have made chaulmoogra oil so dreaded as a medicine. The new oil has been used quite extensively of late in the treatment of leprosy, and the results have been eminently satisfactory, Dr. Machado says.

The tree from which the oil is obtained is known commonly as the sapucainha, and in botanical language as *carpotrochea brasiliensis*. An extract made from it has long been used as a household remedy for skin diseases.—*Science Service*

Scientists Undergo Slow Poisoning from Mercury Vapor. X-rays are not the only toys of science to extract a toll of physical suffering at the hands of their intrepid users.

The insidious poisonous effects upon himself of mercury vapor, utilized in a period of research experiments extending over twenty years, have just been described in a scientific paper by the famous chemist, Prof. Alfred Stock of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. Chronic troubles of the nose, throat, and intestines were rendered more aggravating by increasing nervousness and as time went on his naturally excellent memory and powers of concentration grew weaker and weaker. No course of treatment prescribed by his physicians proved permanently helpful.

Eventually it became evident that collaborators in his own laboratory as well as colleagues in other places were being affected in the same way. In consequence it was decided to readjust laboratory conditions so that as little free mercury would be exposed to the air as possible. And at the same time a thoroughly efficient ventilating system was installed.

In the course of a few months the various ailments fell off gradually and after a period of years health in some cases was restored completely when the experimenter refrained from further contacts with the fatal element.

Medical science, Prof. Stock declares, is not aware of the danger arising from the inhalation of mercury fumes, the chronic poisoning from which, in his opinion, is quite as fatal as the better known poisoning from lead.—*Science Service*