

St. Croix Avis

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., THURSDAY 22ND APRIL 1920.

No. 91.

THE ST. CROIX AVIS

is printed and published daily (Sundays and Holidays excepted) by G. Johansen at the Avis Office.

TERMS—50 cents monthly in advance, 2 cents per single copy.

Entered as second-class matter May 26th 1917 at the Post Office at Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. of the U. S. A., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Contribution to this paper will be gladly received when the same deals with matters of general interest, and is accompanied with the author's name, as a guarantee of good faith. The editor cannot be responsible for the views of his correspondents nor does he necessarily endorse them.

INTERPLANETARY COMMUNICATION.

A mysterious interference with the operation of the Marconi wireless instruments has caused renewed interest in the question of talking with our near neighbors on Mars or Venus. Reports state that certain mysterious signals have occurred simultaneously in London and New York with equal intensity, indicating a distant origin.

Scientific authorities are quoted as seriously considering the suggestion that the Martians are trying to engage the inhabitants of earth in a confidential chat, or that perhaps the supposedly alive spirits of the dead are attempting to send messages back.

The offer by the French Academy of Sciences of a prize of 100,000 francs (\$20,000) for the exchange of a sign between the earth and a heavenly body, transfers the possibility of interplanetary communication from the field of ridicule to that of interesting scientific speculation. Any one thinking to compete for this prize, however, should consider the estimate of Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz that the plan might succeed if the United States were to consolidate into one plant all the electric power in the country with towers a thousand or more feet high. The cost of such an attempt would doubtless be no less than a billion dollars.—*The Watchman Magazine*.

THE WHITE DEATH.

In the *Acadian Recorder* we read that the assaults made upon human maladies

by science have met with wonderful success after all, despite the fact that epidemics still rage and men still die of disease. Small pox, the deadly scourge of countless centuries, has been rendered practically inoffensive. Yellow Fever and Malaria, which in former times rendered many large and fertile sections of the world almost uninhabitable for White Men, have been conquered. The deadly scourge of Diphtheria has been robbed of its terrors by that most efficient of cures and preventatives—Anti-tetoxin while Typhus and Typhoid Fevers claim very few victims in these later days. Although all this is true, yet there remains much yet to be done, for Rheumatism still tortures and cripples almost unchecked, and Pneumonia and Tuberculosis claim almost as many victims as heretofore. Any invention or discovery that may mitigate the ravages of these Captains of the men of death cannot fail to be of vast interest to mankind. In a recent issue of the New York 'Herald,' Dr. Harris A. Houghton tells of an experiment being made in Framingham, Mass., for the elimination of Consumption from that city, the experiment, if successful, is certain, of course, to be imitated elsewhere. The move was started by one of the large industrial life insurance companies with an initial gift of \$100,000. The National Association for the study and prevention of Tuberculosis accepted the trust and Dr. D. B. Armstrong was selected as director of the experiments. Framingham, with 16,000 inhabitants, was selected for the place. The plan followed was to examine the largest possible number of people for tubercular cases and to treat the cases found. Not less than 4,473 persons were examined, seventy-seven per cent were ill to some degree and all but fourteen per cent, of these were classified as wholly or partially preventable. Of the total number affected by disease, 96 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were found, or 2-16 per cent, of the total examined. The most up-to-date treatment was given, and the practical result at the close of the second year is thus summed up: During the preceeding decade the tuberculosis death rate was 996 per 100,000. For 1917 it was 99 per 100,000. For 1918 it was 14 per 100,000—a most remarkable decrease. And the indications are that there will be a still greater decrease, because centres of infection will be gradually eliminated, the town physicians will acquire greater skill in dealing with the disease, and the peo-

ple trained at the clinics, will be on the alert to discover the earliest trace and exhibit more intelligence in looking after themselves. The Framingham experiment has been the only one thus carried out on a great scale, and if by the end of the three years these encouraging results will continue, such experiments will become worldwide. After all, health is to a great extent a purchasable commodity and if the great nations of the world would spend upon the public health thirtieth part of what they expend on warlike armament, the results would be amazing in the extreme.—*Barbados Globe*.

DENTISTS CONDEMN GOLD TEETH.

Gold teeth and fillings were condemned in resolutions adopted by the American Academy of Dental Science holding a Convention on Feb. 4. They were termed "out of date and not conducive to general good health." The dentists also went on record as being against removal of nerves from decayed teeth preparatory to filling.—*Ibid*.

BATES OF EXCHANGE.

There was a decided fall in the rates of exchange during last week, the pound sterling rising in value by about 9 cents in the dollar, and thus infusing confidence in early reestablishment of the value of the British Pound. Today the buying bank rate, which once stood as high as 41 per cent, is now 22.—*Ibid*.

DEAFNESS

And Noises In The Head.

IF YOU ARE A SUFFERER—Go to your Local Druggist and order 'CONCENTRATED SOURDAL,' price 4/6 per tin. This New remedy gives almost immediate relief, and quickly effects a permanent cure. It penetrates to the actual seat of the complaint, and has completely cured many cases which were considered hopeless. If your Chemist does not yet stock 'SOURDAL,' do not accept any substitute, but send money-order for a supply direct to the 'SOURDAL' DISTRIBUTING CO, 38 STATION ROAD, CROYDON, SURREY, ENG., and a package will be mailed per return with full directions.