

On October 7, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago sustained the District Court of Indianapolis in its refusal to enjoin the Indiana State Board of Health from prohibiting the sale of catsup and sweet pickles containing sodium benzoate as a preservative.

Col. William C. Gorgas, chief sanitary officer of the Canal Zone, reached New York on October 20, and will shortly leave for South Africa, where he will undertake to check the ravages of pneumonia among the negro miners of that section. Col. Gorgas will be assisted in his work on the Rand by Dr. Samuel Darling, one of his colleagues at the Ancon Hospital, and Major Robert Noble, executive officers of the sanitary department of the Isthmian Canal Commission.

Dr. Louise Pearce, the only woman on the staff of Johns Hopkins Hospital, has been appointed an assistant to Dr. Simon Flexner, of the Rockefeller Institute, New York, to take effect October 1, 1913. Her appointment is unique in American medical annals, as she is the only woman ever named to work directly with Dr. Flexner.

In August last a short cist containing the well-preserved human remains of a brachycephalous man was found in Burgie Lodge Farm, near Forres, by Mr. C. M. Bruce. It was examined by Professor Reid, of Aberdeen, and others, and the general conclusion seems to be that the interment took place from about 4,000 to 5,000 years ago. During the work of removing some stones from the same field Mr. Bruce uncovered another ancient grave about one hundred yards east of the previous find. It is a simply made cist of small capacity, primitive in the extreme, and apparently constructed to receive the ashes after cremation. No trace of bones was found, but only a thin layer of ash containing small particles of charcoal, probably oak. The cist was found about three feet below the surface level, and is egg-shaped, but slightly drawn in, the point lying to the east. It measures 24 in. in length, 17 in. at its greatest width, and 12 in. in depth. The floor of the tomb was bordered with small pebbles, and in the centre a flat stone measuring 6 in. by 8 in. No grave goods were in the cist that would associate the find with any age, nor was there any trace of sculpture work, or attempt at dressing the stones. The present is the third ancient grave discovered in this field; the first, found further west in 1848, contained an urn and bead ornaments.

Seven plague-infected rats were found at Seattle, Wash., between September 30 and October 18, 1913. These rats were found along the waterfront. The municipal health department is actively engaged in the trapping and poisoning of rats and the rat-proofing of buildings in the vicinity in which the infected rodents were found. Officers of the United States Public Health Service have charge of the inspection and