(By PRESCOTT LECKY)

A giant from the backwoods, arriving in Hollywood recently to begin his career as a motion-picture actor, furnished the newspapers with a sure-fire humorous story that set the nation grinning. For the giant, in order to hole in the top and protruded his head and neck through the aperture! No doubt we shall see him in slapstick comedy before long; and whether he is a comedian or not, undoubtedly he will succeed in entertaining us. He is giant, and that is enough.

Giants have been a source of wonder since the dawn of history. We think of the giant as a superman, which is only one step removed from thinking of him as supernatural. Somehow he seems inexplicable in

natural terms. But now the mystery of the giants is going the way of other mysteries; for science has found the key to

The key lies in a few bits of tissue so small that they can be held in the hollow of your hand, yet so important that they even may unlock the innermost secrets of the processes of life and death. Scattered about the body-in the head, neck and trunk-these unimportant looking little granular masses in reality are tiny chemical laboratories-a whole chain of bodily drug stores, dispensing wonder working remedies of their own manufacture.

So new are they to the scientific world that they are still known by three different names-"endocrin organs," "ductless glands," and "the glands of internal secretion." They empty their secretions directly into the blood vessels that nourish them. and so are distinguished from the so-called duct glands, which pour out their secretions through tubes or ducts and deposit them upon either the inner or outer surfaces of the

The important ductless glands are the pituitary, pineal, thyroid, adrenal gonads, thymus, and the island cells of the pancreas. The wonder-working remedies they secrete are known by two names-"autocoids," meaning "self-drugs"; and "hormones," meaning to arouse or stir up. They act as body accelerators, and sometimes as body brakes. The power of their action on the body passes belief.

Through the discovery of the locations and functions of certain of these body chemical laboratories, great research laboratories are ing a new and marvellous drama of

It is a tale not only of giants, but of midgets as well; also of fat ladies and human skeletons. And it goes even further, concerning itself vitally even with the water you drink, the food you est, and the medicine your doctor may subscribe. You have seen in the papers recently that large cities are considering the matter of putting iodin in to the city water. This is part of the story. So is the recent advice of the United dies and human skeletons. And it States Bureau of Fisheries that you should eat more salt fish. So is the discovery of insulin, the wonderful remedy for diabetes, by Dr. Frederick Grant Banting, of Toronto, Canada,

In short, the drama of life that science is unfolding in a few small glands promises to become, when completed, the most important body of information, from a human standpoint, yet discovered.

Consider, for example, the single item of insulin-one of the autocoids, or chemical secretions, which
Banting extracted from certain glandular cells of the pancreas. In the
few short months since its discovery, practically every other diabetes remedy on the market, along with much of the old-fashioned medical procedure, has been thrown into the discard. What does this mean for the future? What will be the fate of our concoctions and patent medicines in use to-day What will drug stores carry on their shelves 20 years from

Much of the evidence concerning the functions of the ductless glands has been obtained experimentally by administering to the human body secretions taken from the glands of animals. In some cases an entire gland has been grafted into the body. Other evidences come from clinical cases in which over-or under-secretion of the glands can be demonstrat-

These observations and experiments are a basis for believing that before long it may be possible to grow giants experimentally (provided, of course, any one wished to be a giant!), just as botanists grow giant plants. Note the word possible. This experiment never has been attempted on a human being, and probably never will be. But even with the elementary knowledge and technique now available, such experiments perform ed upon dogs and other animals have shown some measures of success. Perhaps our children or grandDo not Miss the Unusual Opportunities Afforded by Our Huge

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