

**Dietz on Science—**  
**SUN'S LIGHT IS GREATEST FOE OF MICROBES**

Bacteria, Unlike Plants, Thrive Best in Darkness.

BY DAVID DIETZ  
 Scripps-Howard Science Editor  
 Sunlight is the greatest enemy of microbes, for most bacteria thrive best in the dark.

Perhaps some unconscious realization of this fact accounts in part for the fact that our spouts mount higher in the springtime when the days are longer and the skies brighter.

We class bacteria as a rule with the plants, but they differ from most plants. Most plants are green, which means that they contain the green coloring matter known as chlorophyll. Such plants can not grow without sunlight.

The leaf of a green plant is a factory, operating upon the energy of sunlight. The plant absorbs carbon dioxide from the air through pores in the leaves. It takes in water through its roots.

**Feed in Different Way**

Then a manufacturing process goes on known as photosynthesis. With the aid of sunlight, and in the presence of chlorophyll, which acts as a stimulator or accelerator—technically it is known as a catalyst—the plant puts the carbon dioxide and water together into simple sugars and starches.

But the microbes can not get their food with the aid of sunlight. Therefore, microbes must get their food in other ways. It is this fact which accounts for the activities of microbes and the roles which they play in the scheme of life.

**Hasten Decay Process**

Microbes may be divided into two main classes from the viewpoint of their feeding habits. There are the saprophytes and the parasites.

The saprophytes live on dead animal or vegetable matter. Most of these are friends of man. Without them the world soon would be buried under an intolerable load of dead things.

But the saprophytic bacteria hasten the process of decay and cause chemical disintegration. In the same way, they also decompose all sorts of waste products.

In many cases these saprophytic bacteria also manufacture chemical compounds which are useful to man.

Thus, while we usually think of microbes as enemies, we must regard the saprophytic types as friends in many instances.

**Restore Soil Fertility**

Among other bacteria which play an important role in the scheme of life are the so-called nitrogen-fixing bacteria. These bacteria consist of two kinds, one of which lives in the soil, the other on the roots of certain plants.

These bacteria restore the nitrogen of the air and turn it into nitrogen compounds which can be utilized by plants. Thus they restore the fertility of the soil.

Certain plants such as clover and alfalfa, attract these nitrogen-fixing bacteria. They congregate in little nodules on the roots of these plants.

That is why the wise farmer periodically plants a field in clover or some other similar plant. It is to give the nitrogen-fixing bacteria a chance to restore the nitrates to the soil.

**ARMS EMBARGO BILL BACKED BY SPEAKER**

League of Nations Association Chief Addresses Council Here.

Philip C. Nash, national president of the League of Nations Association, spoke on the importance of action on the bill now before Congress to give the President power to declare a national embargo on munitions, at the Lincoln Monday night. He addressed the Indiana council of industrial relations.

This bill largely will determine the action of the league in the Japanese question, Nash said. Nearly all other nations, he said, have this provision in their laws and await the action of the United States.

Nash criticised the past policies of the United States "in signing and ratifying treaties" and then failing to aid in their enforcement. He urged substantial reduction in armaments by all nations.

**BOARD CLERK NAMED**

Clemency Commission Aid Is Selected by Governor McNutt.

Miss Gladys Grieser, Indianapolis, was appointed clerk of the state clemency board, it was announced today at the office of Governor Paul V. McNutt.

Joseph Reilly, Elkhart, was appointed successor to J. K. Smith, Elkhart, as railroad inspector for the public service commission.

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**STUDY STREET PROJECT**

Works Board Approval of East New York, Proposal Awaited.

Last link in the street widening program promised by the Sullivan administration will be forged if

works board resolutions for the widening and resurfacing of East New York street from Highland avenue to East street are approved.

Completion of the project will give the city a forty-five-foot traffic lane from East street to Irvington and

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

**ASK \$10,000 FOR DEATH**

Administrator of Estate Sues Motorists for Fatal Accident.

Administrator of the estate of Mrs. Alice Marie Heslar, the Peoples State bank asks damages of \$10,000

for her death in a suit on file in superior court four.

Defendants in the suit are Walter C. Brown and his son, Morris L.

Brown. The latter is alleged to have been driving his father's car

when it struck Mrs. Heslar's car on Kessler boulevard northwest of the city, Aug. 27, 1932.

Brown's alleged failure to stop at a preferential street caused Mrs. Heslar to receive fatal injuries, the

complaint states.

**Held for Lebanon Police**

Police Monday night arrested George Isenhour, 21, of 2457 Guiford avenue, at the request of Sheriff Wilbur Small at Lebanon, who said Isenhour is wanted there on a larceny charge.

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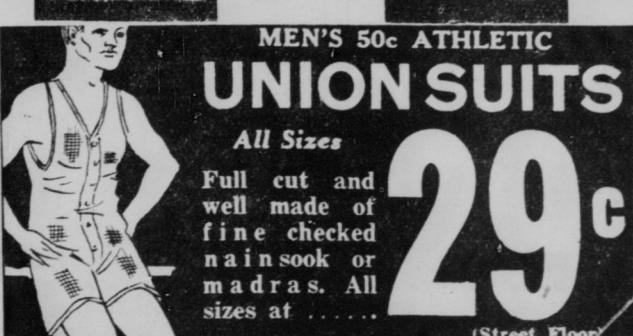
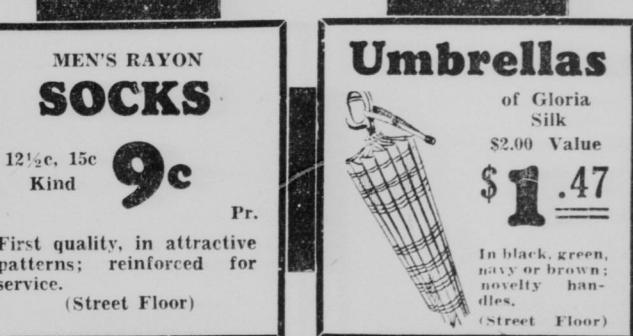
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