

SUN SPOTS LINKED TO RISE IN DEATHS

**Dr. W. F. Petersen of Illinois
Says Disturbances Cause
Higher Physical Strain**

PEAK IS HELD NEAR NOW

**Charts Are Offered to Show
Epidemic Parallels Going Back
for Many Years**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
CHICAGO, May 10.—The entire world is threatened with a rising death rate from physical strain brought about by the sun spot cycle, Dr. William F. Petersen of the University of Illinois College of Medicine declared today.

In an address before the Chicago Pathological Society he undertook to show by lantern slides that meteorological turbulences were correlated with "increased demand on the human organism" and were reflected in the mortality rate.

He displayed charts to demonstrate that barometrical upheavals paralleled disease outbreaks and peak death rates.

"The study reveals the close integration that exists between the human population and the changes in the atmospheric environment in which the population lives," he said.

"While well known in ancient medicine, the trends that are obvious in modern medicine have been ignored because the emphasis has been placed on the infecting organism rather than on the change in the resistance of the human being, which is altered not only from day to day, and from season to season, but from year to year."

His graphs showed an increase in sun spot activity in these years: 1857-1860; 1868-1870; 1879-1883; 1890-1893; 1892-1895; 1914-1917; 1924-1928. A cycle begun in 1934 was now reaching its maximum, he added.

He asserted that great atmospheric turbulence was accompanied by a greater prevalence of streptococcus infections. His charts recorded five epidemics of meningitis in Chicago since 1860 and all, with one exception, coincided with sunspot cycles, he declared. These reached their crests in 1872, 1881, 1893, 1917 and 1929.

He added that outbreaks of childbed fever, erysipelas and tuberculosis in Chicago corresponded with sunspot activity, except that the tuberculosis rate has been descending as people get better care. Chicago's tuberculosis death rate reached maximums in 1858, 1870, 1881, 1893, 1906, 1915 and 1928.

The Chicago trends in childbed fevers, he said, were paralleled in England, Sweden, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Uruguay, Australia and Canada.

The peaks in the prevalence of erysipelas in Illinois and Michigan, he reported, corresponded in time to peaks in England and Sweden.

The outbreaks of influenza epidemics, he found, exactly paralleled the curves recording sun-spot activity. Likewise, "in a general way," he asserted, an increase in surgical cases coincided with barometrical turbulence.

Deaths from appendicitis, he said, were simultaneously high in Michigan and Illinois, and in Germany and Sweden at times of high sunspot activity.

The same trends were recorded for gastric and duodenal ulcers, he reported.