

two different materials expand at different rates when heated. Thus there is considerable strain when the glazed object contracts on cooling down from its firing in the furnace. The strains suffered by this brittle glaze, only one two-hundredth of an inch thick, during the annealing process, reduce its resistance to the many stresses it must endure in the course of a more or less hazardous existence in the kitchen sink and on the dining room table.

Manufacturers, keenly alive to the vital bearing of these facts on the development of their industry, have contributed generously to scientific research on this problem in university laboratories, hitherto without avail.

In a long series of experiments, in which the exact conditions of manufacture were reproduced, C. G. Peters and G. E. Merritt of the interferometric section of the Bureau of Standards have perfected a system for measuring the rate of contraction and expansion of the different glazes in commercial use. By applying this general method to their individual problems, manufacturers of every variety of glazed ware, from bricabrac to bathtubs, will be able to ascertain their errors. They can then turn out products the surfaces of which do not "craze" either in the making or subsequently, with consequent saving to both producer and consumer.

FATNESS MAY BE HEREDITARY

The fat person who is active in habits and frugal in his diet is the one who furnishes the real problem in obesity, authorities say. Does the fat one carry out his fundamental exchange of energy more economically, with a large surplus of energy producing heat in the form of fat left over? Dr. Solomon Strouse of Chicago and his collaborators in a study of basal metabolism say that fat people conserve the body fat and thus acquire a surplus while the thin use up their food fat instead of storing it.

Since it has been established that the rate of metabolism, or exchange of food into energy, of the obese is normal, some physiologists have tried to account for the surplus of fat on the grounds of heredity. Dr. C. B. Davenport divides the population into three elementary species, called biotypes, characterized by their build, slender, medium, and--fleshy. In some families only one type is involved, in otherstwo or more. In some cases the variation may be due to the idiosyncrasies of the endocrine glands or to constitutional and cultural factors in the manner of living.

As one authority has remarked, the large amount of public interest in obesity is in marked contrast to the small amount of scientific information. We do not yet really know why the fat are fat.

Country people in many parts of England still believe in witches.
