

The transmutation of hydrogen into helium is very slow in most parts of the universe, so that the accumulated supply of the valuable product is small. The control of the reaction would plainly serve as a tremendous impetus to the airship industry, but the key to the puzzle is not in sight.

SUICIDES FEWER AMONG SAVAGES

Suicide, characteristic of modern western cities, is found also among all except the most simple of primitive peoples. But the suicide of primitive people differs in several ways from that of present-day America, according to a report to the American Anthropological Association by Miss Ruth Shonle, graduate student at the University of Chicago.

While primitive people commit suicide because of quarrels, love affairs, deaths and illness in the same manner that civilized people do, such suicides among primitive people are very rare. This personal type of suicide which occurs when individual wishes or needs are disturbed is found most frequently in modern cities where the individual is allowed to drift along by himself without much supervision by society. In the primitive village every need of life is recognized and regulated by the group; consequently there is little opportunity for an individual to become disorganized and unhappy. The stable customs and incorporation of the individual into the neighborhood in civilized rural and religious communities makes them similar to the primitive society, and they also have few suicide. In the United States the city suicide rate is more than 30 per cent. higher than the rate in rural districts while in some European countries two to three times as many suicides per unit of population occur in cities as in the rural communities.

A striking contrast to Europe and America is found in the institutional suicides among primitive people - suicide which occurs at the command of the tribe and with its assistance and usually with some ritual. Such suicides are those of the sick and aged in Eskimo and northern Asiatic tribes, and suicide as punishment in parts of Africa; they are most widespread in the Pacific Islands and Africa where it is customary for the widow to commit suicide with the assistance of her friends at her husband's funeral. This same kind of suicide was formerly found in the Orient, the suttee of Hindu widows being perhaps the most conspicuous example, but it is not found in Europe and America because the individualism of the last few centuries has released the individual from the strict social control which is necessary for such suicides, and also because in these countries Christianity has given to human life a value paramount to all other values.

The air is so dry in Chile that lips and hands are chapped continually.

Infections of the teeth and tonsils may effect eyesight seriously.
