CHEMISTRY

## Street CO Menaces Children

Carbon monoxide poisoning from automobile exhaust gas is cited as a potential factor in the ill health of city children, by Dr. J. C. Sinclair Battley of Detroit in a forthcoming issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

Carbon monoxide, a colorless, almost odorless, highly poisonous gas, is known to be present in high concentration in the exhaust of automobiles. Babies and young children are particularly susceptible to this form of poisoning, so that the constant exposure to the varying amounts present in the atmosphere of city streets bearing heavy traffic Dr. Battley considers a possible source of the poor health, failure to gain, lack of appetite, and non-resistance to infection frequently seen in city children.

"Children are exposed to a great deal of exhaust gas," he declares. "In apartments on main thoroughfares where traffic is heavy, children are subjected to a constant stream of diluted exhaust gas rising from the lower stories through the building for a considerable part of the day. The poisonous effect is difficult to estimate because of the multiplicity of factors involved, but prolonged observation may bring substantial proof. In view of the fact that chronic poisoning has been observed in adults, there seems no reason why it may not be a factor in the ill health of children."

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

ZOOLOGY

## Heated Water Carries Fish

Continuously flowing, steam-heated sea water has enabled a cargo of scarlet star fish, jazz fish and huge red hermit crabs to travel in luxury from the Madeira Islands to the London Zoo.

Between 80 to 90 exotically colored specimens have been successfully transported from their native haunts and added to the marine collections by E. G. Boulenger, director of the Aquarium. Since these types require a constant temperature and water abundantly aerated, specially constructed containers were required to bring them to their destination alive. A large wooden tank was divided into compartments and fitted up with steam pipes. Fresh water was pumped into the tank continuously which the steam pipes held at a constant temperature.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

PSYCHOLOGY

LEWIS MADISON TERMAN

## Investigator of Genius

One of a nation's most precious resources is its gifted individuals, says Dr. Terman. This thought has been expressed by wise men of earlier times, but the modern psychologist is the first to take it seriously, since he is the first to look into the possibilities of developing those resources and preventing them from going to waste.

Dr. Terman's study of 1,400 unusually bright school children has demonstrated that the typical gifted child is different from average children, and can usually be spotted at an early age. His investigations have produced evidence to show that the bright and talented children of the race are not sickly and queer. Their superior mentality is most likely to go hand in hand with good physique and nervous stability and a wide range of interests. This is a beginning at understanding the principles of genius, but the gifted child is still so little understood that he represents the "Darkest Africa" of educational exploration, Dr. Terman declares. Methods of training the dull child have been carefully studied in recent years, but geniuses still have to develop their gifts as best they can without assistance from science.

This psychologist's studies of genius are a natural outgrowth of his studies of intelligence. Some 20 years ago, he was impressed by the possibilities of the Binet intelligence tests for measuring the differences between children, and his revision of the Binet-Simon test helped to establish the intelligence test as an educational institution. Later, he rendered valuable assistance in the problem of measuring the intelligence of the U. S. Army during the War.

His flair for pioneering in big, almost totally unexplored fields of psychology has most recently led him to investigate the differences between the sexes in talents, abilities and character.

Dr. Terman is a Hoosier by birth (1877), and by education at Indiana University. He came east to win his Ph. D. at Clark University, and then crossed the country to California, where he has taught and conducted research almost ever since. At present, he is head of the department of psychology at Leland Stanford Junior University.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

METEOROLOGY

## Chumming With Tornadoes

The man who has had more personal experiences with tornadoes and has written more about them than anybody else in the world is Colonel John P. Finley, a retired officer of the United States Army. He was a lieutenant in the Signal Corps in the days when that branch of the Army conducted the meteorological service of the country, now carried on by the Weather Bureau. In the early eighties he was placed in charge of the field investigation of tornadoes and other violent local storms, with headquarters at Kansas City. He organized a corps of 2,500 tornado reporters representing every state and territory in the Union, from whose records he assembled a remarkable fund of information concerning the deadliest storms on earth.

On one occasion he was driving over the prairie when he saw unmistakable signs of a coming "twister" on the western horizon. He stopped at a farmhouse, where he found a woman preparing supper. Briefly explaining the danger he instructed her to put out the fire, and aided her in doing so. He then rounded up other members of the family, who were out in the fields, and assembled them all in the southwest corner of the cellar. Hardly had they reached this refuge when the bellowing monster reached the spot, lifted the entire house from its foundations and set it down, almost intact, in an adjoining field. Nobody in the cellar was injured. That night the farmer's family slept in their house, which was still habitable despite its change of location.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927