

## Tears Express Relief

*Psychology*

The puzzling paradox of crying from joy and crying from sorrow is not so contradictory, because the tears are due to mixed emotions. This is the conclusion of Dr. Frederick H. Lund, of Bucknell University, and Dr. H. V. Pike, of Danville State Hospital of Pennsylvania, reported to the American Psychological Association.

The psychologist and doctor, who conducted an investigation of the tendency to weeping among mental and nervous patients, reported that neither joy nor sorrow, dejection nor elation in a pure form is very effective in causing tears. In mentally diseased cases, where emotions can be readily observed because they occur in more pronounced form than in normal people, they found no case of weeping in the midst of a depressed psychic state. Typically, crying occurs when a depressing situation gains a redeeming feature, or when tension and unpleasant sensations are replaced by alleviating circumstances, they found.

Activity of the nervous systems of the body during emotional states is such as would fit in with the psychological condition of mixed emotions leading to tears, the investigation showed. *Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928*

## Education Meetings—Continued

test. Children who were found to be mentally advanced beyond their real ages were placed in regular public school classes.

Careers of these youngest pupils have been followed through the seventh grade in as many cases as possible, Dr. Lincoln reported. Out of 54, only four slipped back a grade, and in these four cases sickness and home conditions were responsible. The rest averaged well in their studies, especially in reading.

The school careers of 18 under-aged children that were refused admission to school on the basis of their mental test scores were also followed. These children probably would not have made good in the kindergarten or first grade if they had been admitted early, Dr. Lincoln pointed out, since most of them did not achieve high standing even when they went through the grades at the usual ages.

The plan of giving mental tests to under-aged children who try to enter school has spread to a number of Massachusetts towns. Four hundred children were tested by Dr. Lincoln in twelve towns this year. The plan saves a year later on for the bright

## New Calendar Aids Schools

*Pedagogy*

Education would be simplified if the simplified thirteen-month calendar were put into effect, the House Foreign Affairs Committee was told in a statement by Joy Elmer Morgan, editor of the *Journal of the National Education Association*.

The committee is holding hearings on the proposal to have the United States join in an international conference for the simplification of the calendar.

Mr. Morgan declared that the simplified calendar would be a great advantage to the schools, for the following reasons:

1. It would reduce the number of facts which children are obliged to learn.

2. It would make the month used by people generally, harmonize with the four-week month which is in use by the schools.

3. It would make the comparison of statistics as between one school month and another more easily understood.

4. It would enable schools to plan for fixed holidays which would be the same year after year.

*Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928*

## Rare Science Works Shown

*History of Science*

Rare scientific books and manuscripts, including one with the Latin original of the rhyme "Thirty days hath September," were on view during the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at New York. The exhibition was held in the Avery Library at Columbia University.

Many of the rare manuscripts were from the George A. Plimpton library, said to be one of the finest collections of educational source materials in existence. The "Thirty days" rhyme is contained in a manuscript copy of a work on the calendar called "Computus cum Commento" by Anianus. This manuscript is dated 1384 and is the oldest known copy of a book which, after the invention of printing about 1450, went through 50 editions in thirty years. Another treasure that was shown in a manuscript copy of "De Temporum ratione," by the Venerable Bede, who lived from about 673 to 735. This copy was made on vellum in 1129, directly from the original, and is notable for its beauty, accuracy and age.

*Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928*

## The Last Unknown

*Geography*

The last great unknown, the Antarctic continent, is being explored. The map on the front cover of this issue will allow you to follow the flights of the Wilkins and Byrd expeditions as they are reported in the daily press. Upon the base map prepared by the American Geographical Society there have been spotted the base camps of the two expeditions. The dotted area in Graham Land shows the approximate extent of snow and ice expanse explored by Wilkins and Eielson on their first flight of December 20, when they discovered that Graham Land is a series of islands and not a part of the continent. Capt. Sir George Hubert Wilkins and his party are based at Deception Island off the coast of Graham Land. Commander Richard E. Byrd and his party are to be based at the Bay of Wales, the point on the Antarctic continent from which Amundsen began his trip to the first attainment of the South Pole.

*Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928*

Greenland is covered with ice except for a border of land from five to 100 miles wide around the edges.

*Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928*