

ture in "lifetime homes" which is something new to these Indians.

These innovations have been adopted only by more progressive members of the tribe.

For centuries the Navajos have seen in their wanderings the stone dwellings inhabited by Pueblo Indians. But fixed abodes of stone were not for the Navajos. They preferred their wood and mud hogans and the light, easily constructed summer shelters ingeniously made of interlaced juniper trees.

The late interest of the Navajos in better homes has had a strange boomerang effect upon white residents of the region. White men have begun to construct houses like these new-fangled

Navajo hogans. The style of architecture is peculiar. The modernized hogans are round stone structures with adobe roofs, resembling somewhat the round domed concrete "pill boxes" used in the World War.

Whether this form of architecture will take hold upon the greater portion of the Navajo tribe remains to be seen. Perhaps as long as the vast spaces of Navajo land remain unfenced, and the great herds of sheep and goats wander in gray-brown floods over the pastures, the old type log and mud hogan will serve to house many Navajos in the fashion that was good enough for their ancestors.

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ENGINEERING

Magnesium Cement Developed Having Hardness of Granite

THE EXPRESSION "as hard as rock" will have to be changed to "as hard as cement" if the experiments of Dr. Howard S. Lukens, of the University of Pennsylvania Chemistry Department, work out as he has reason to think they will. For six years Dr. Lukens has been working with a combination of magnesium oxide and magnesium chloride, and he now has a cement which has the tensile strength of 2000 pounds per square inch. It is as hard as granite.

The catch is that the cement so far can be used successfully only for interiors, for water does something to it and it disintegrates. However, it is now possible to fabricate a stable magnesium cement product which does not absorb moisture from the air, and that is something ordinary Portland cement has never overcome.

Dr. Lukens has made some pieces of magnesium cement which have been lying in his laboratory for three years, and have not even been warped by the air. They are in perfect condition, and are excellent, Dr. Lukens said, for inside walls and floors.

"This cement," Dr. Lukens stated, "is of an extraordinary hardness and tensile strength. It sets quickly. It can be used with many aggregates to make other products. It is excellent for insulating wall plaster. Gypsum plaster, for instance, has no strength. The magnesium cement is very strong and very durable. It needs only one coat from

one-quarter to three-eighths of an inch thick, while in ordinary wall plastering three-quarters of an inch is necessary. With the magnesium product less labor and less material are needed to give a harder, denser coat."

Dr. Lukens made the cement by mixing magnesium oxide and magnesium chloride in water.

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SOCIOLOGY

Huxley Says Birth Control Threatens World Depopulation

THE DANGER of depopulation during the next hundred years stares in the face even those countries where overpopulation has been considered a threat, due to deliberate prevention of conception by large sections of the population, Prof. Julian S. Huxley, biologist of King's College, London, predicted to the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

"We face the problem of regulating the quantity of human members and preventing under or overpopulation," he said.

Deliberate birth control is the largest factor in limiting population. It is unique to human species. But post-

PSYCHOLOGY

Laborers Can be Taught To Make Most of Energy

INDUSTRIAL workers, interested only in how much they can produce, and resting or keeping to their tasks as their feelings alone dictate, may be the rule in the factories of tomorrow. Tests made at Purdue University, under the direction of Profs. George H. Shepard and George Brandenburg, have shown that workers can easily be taught to make the most of their energy.

Ordinary laborers, trying to give a maximum output at piece work or under similar stimulus, will resist fatigue until the resulting sensations become severe, the investigation concluded. As this tendency is exactly wrong, the workers must be taught to rest for a time at the first feeling of fatigue, a course followed by workers of superior physique and intelligence without being trained to do so. After following a special task routine, however, the usual worker can rely on his sensations as a basis of efficient choice for work and rest periods.

Students at Purdue University, a report to the Society of Industrial Engineers states, were used in the tests. The workers, all physically fit, went through gymnasium routine, resting at intervals to have their weight, pulse and other measurements of fatigue recorded.

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ponement of marriage and many remaining permanently unmarried, also contribute to the situation, Prof. Huxley declared. Differential fertility of individuals, classes and nations demands urgent study, with the objective of improving the average quality of the human population.

Prof. Lancelot Hogben reinforced Prof. Huxley. If birth control continues, he said, it will be "difficult to foretell what extensive change in family economics and social organization will be requisite to create new incentives to parenthood to insure against gradual extinction."

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