

to flinch anxiously when the "outrageous thing fell and struck so near me."

Seeking to measure the inner signs of emotion, Dr. Stratton hooked up his Eastern and Western subjects with apparatus to record the circulation and pressure of the blood, respiration, and electrical resistance of the skin, as well as the flinching of the hand.

Taken as individuals, the Orientals and Americans showed a wide range of reactions. But in general the Americans reacted more vigorously.

In withdrawing the hand from the

hammer, Americans were more vigorous by 15 per cent. at least, and 75 per cent. at the greatest, than the Orientals. But between Japanese and Chinese, no significant difference was detected.

Finding that Chinese born in this country and brought up in a Western environment react in true Oriental fashion, if anything less emotionally than their China-born racial brothers, leads the psychologist to believe that the emotional difference is racial, and not due to environmental difference of the Orient and the West.

*Science News Letter, May 4, 1935*

## CHEMISTRY

## "Laughing Gas" Whipped Cream spurts From Syphon

CHEMISTRY has discovered a new method of producing whipped cream by the use of "laughing gas" which makes the preparation of cream puffs and intricate pie-toppings a pleasure for the housewife. By the new process, cream can be inflated 450 per cent., which means a pint of cream can be turned into more than two quarts of smooth, foamy and delicious whipped cream.

When the new technique is put on the market, a container like an ordinary seltzer syphon will be delivered to the housewife's door ready for use, said G. Frederick Smith and C. A. Getz, chemists of the University of Illinois before the meeting of the American Chemical Society.

The whipped cream "syphon" can be stored in the icebox or placed on the table. The consumer merely pushes a button and releases cream in any desired amount.

Under the old method, which often as not resulted in failure as every housewife knows, air was beaten into cream of high butter fat content with a rotary whipper and much "elbow grease." If the cream had the right fat content, was sufficiently aged and had just the right temperature, whipped cream resulted in about twice the amount of the ordinary cream used, or an overrun of 100 per cent. as the dairy men call it.

In the new method, instead of whipping air bubbles into the cream an odorless, non-toxic and tasteless gas is injected into the cream in a container under high pressure. Nitrous oxide—the

"laughing gas" of dentistry—is used at present, the scientists said. The whipped cream is completely harmless, they added.

Upon releasing the pressure by pushing a button, the gas expands instantly, "inflating" the cream up to 450 per cent.

The whipped cream containers come in pint size, weighing a pound when charged, and will be obtained like a seltzer bottle for the price of its contents plus a deposit on the bottle.

While the scientists prefer to use nitrous oxide, other gases which are soluble in cream at ordinary pressures to the extent of one volume of gas for each volume of cream can also be used. Nitrogen, oxygen, and air are useless.

*Science News Letter, May 4, 1935*

## ASTRONOMY

## Dust Storms Never End On the Planet Venus

DUST storms sweeping the West should afford science one means of finding out more about the atmosphere surrounding Venus "veiled planet."

This is the suggestion which Dr. V. M. Slipher, director of Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, will make to the U. S. Weather Bureau, it was disclosed before the meeting of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia.

His plan for utilizing earth's dust storms for science would be to make airplane flights high above the dust clouds, and measure the upward reflection and scattering of sunlight on the dust layers which bring worry miles below.

Such information should be of value when applied to the planet Venus, which appears to have perpetual dust storms in its atmosphere. Venus is without moisture to lay such dust, which once stirred up floats continually high above the surface of the planet. That at least is the present hypothesis which Dr. Slipher would like to check with airplane dust-cloud measurements on earth.

Recent observations, he also told visiting scientists, show that the weather prediction for Mars now is "cloudy and warmer."

Mars is going through what is summer for its northern hemisphere, and such times are accompanied by an increase in cloudiness. Similar measurements made in 1920, he disclosed, showed comparable cloudiness.

*Science News Letter, May 4, 1935*



**COVERED WAGON, 1935**

Light weight freight cars are the latest in American railroading. Without loss of strength and with great decrease in dead weight, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has just completed thirteen experimental freight cars embodying the newest engineering principles. Smoothing of the most angular exterior parts of the cars cuts wind resistance.