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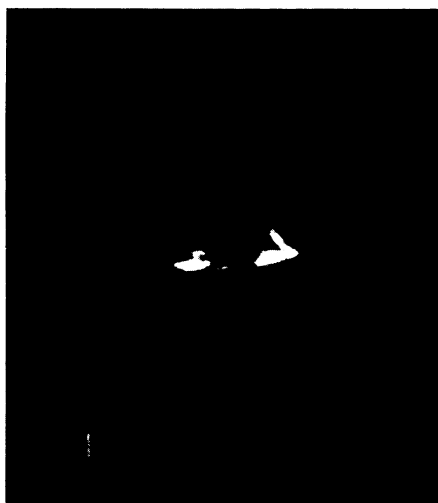
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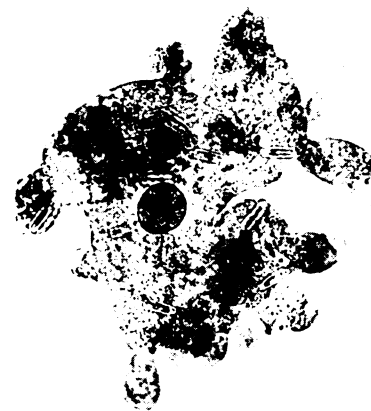
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#### PSYCHIATRY

### New Frontier

● "There was a time in the history of this country when all of the possibilities of the future were thought out in terms of western frontier. . . . The western frontier no longer exists, at least in the sense in which it did in the days of our forefathers; but there is a frontier which exists now as it always has and which because of its obviousness so often escapes recognition. I mean the frontier of the mind, which despite its hundreds of thousands of years of history still presents possibilities that so far as our practical purposes are concerned are infinite. No one has yet dared to suggest a limit to the possibilities of the human mind, and it is to these possibilities that we must turn with an abiding hope and a conviction and assurance that they will not fail us."—William A. White in *TWENTIETH CENTURY PSYCHIATRY* (Norton).

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1936*

#### NUTRITION

### Chocolate

● "The Spanish for a long time kept secret the method of preparing chocolate. When Cortez and the Spaniards entered the vast empire of Montezuma, they found that the use of cocoa and chocolate as beverages was common. The Emperor drank it flavored with vanilla from a golden cup. When Cortez sent to Charles V the principal products of the New World, he included cocoa. The conquerors were not slow to appreciate its excellent qualities, and introduced it into Spain."—Louise Stanley and Jessie Alice Cline in *FOODS, THEIR SELECTION AND PREPARATION* (Ginn).

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1936*

#### PHYSICS

### Superior Substitutes

● "Not only are we adopting various alloys, which we call upon to do tasks that the pure metals are unable to perform, but also today we find ourselves surrounded by many synthetic substitutes for such natural products as leather, silk, rubber and many other substances. Not only have we found many superior substitutes for natural substances, but also many new compositions have been developed with characteristics that would have been unbelievable some years ago."—Louis M. Heil in *THE PHYSICAL WORLD* (Blakiston's).

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# THE AUTH

#### ANTHROPOLOGY

### Dangerous Myth

● "The cure for the racial mythology, with its accompanying self-exaltation and persecution of others, which now besets Europe, is a re-orientation of the nationalist ideal, and, in the practical sphere, an abandonment of claims by nations to absolute sovereign rights. Meanwhile, however, science and the scientific spirit can do something by pointing out the biological realities of the ethnic situation, and by refusing to lend her sanction to the absurdities and the horrors perpetrated in her name. Racialism is a myth, and a dangerous myth at that. It is a cloak for selfish economic aims which in their unclad nakedness would look ugly enough. And it is not scientifically grounded. The essence of science is the appeal to fact."—Julian S. Huxley and A. C. Haddon in *WE EUROPEANS* (Harper).

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1936*

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

### Ancient Tradition

● "The Biblical tradition of Abraham's early connexion with 'Ur of the Chaldees,' whether integral in the oldest document or not, is strongly supported by archaeological research.

"The implications of the influence of Babylonian legend upon the earliest Hebrew traditions have already been mentioned.

"We have also the evidence of the Biblical names which so often, as it were inadvertently, embody very primitive tradition. Thus the name Abraham, also in the form Abram, has been identified on Babylonian contract tablets as that of a small farmer under the First Dynasty (c. 2200 B.C.). Among the witnesses to such contracts appear the names Jacob (*Yakubu-ilu*) and Joseph (*Yasup-ilu*); and it is said that Israel (as a personal name) has been found on a Babylonian seal of 2500 B.C. Other names connected with the story of Abraham, such as Terah, Sarah, Milcah, Laban, and so forth, have a Babylonian rather than a distinctively Hebrew flavour, and it is to be noted that few of them reappear in later Judaism."—Stephen L. Caiger in *BIBLE AND SPADE* (Oxford Univ. Press).

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1936*

# ORS SAY:

## MINERALOGY

### Fortunate Rage

● "A blacksmith working in his little shop in the wilds of Canada, annoyed by the howling of a fox outside, threw his hammer at the animal. Though he missed the fox, his hammer knocked off the corner of a rock, exposing beautiful metallic cobalt ore, full of native silver; thus the great mines of Cobalt in Ontario began. And scientists working with sensitive magnetic instruments in Sweden located another great ore deposit (magnetic pyrites) under a swamp."—Alfred C. Hawkins in *THE BOOK OF MINERALS* (Wiley).

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## ENGINEERING

### Deprecation

● "It will be noticed that the Centigrade scale is used throughout; almost the last words I had in conversation with Sir Alfred Ewing were in deprecation of the continued use of the Fahrenheit scale, which he hoped would rapidly go into disuse. Is it too much to hope that engineers will gradually adopt the metric system in their dealings with steam and oil?"—A. Ederton in preface to *THERMODYNAMICS FOR ENGINEERS*, by J. A. Ewing (Cambridge Univ. Press).

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1936*

## PHYSICS

### Ideas

● "Science does not find ready-made the concepts with which it operates: it has to form them artificially and their perfecting is a gradual process. It draws its material from life and it reacts upon life; its impulse, its consistency, and its vitality came from the ideas at work in it. It is the ideas which place before the student the problems with which he deals, which impel him to work without cease, and which enable him correctly to interpret the results he obtains. Without ideas investigation becomes aimless and the energy expended upon it is wasted. Ideas alone make a physicist of an experimenter, an historian of a chronicler, and a philologist of a graphological expert."—Max Planck in *THE PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSICS* (Norton).

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1936*

## ZOOLOGY

### No Rival

● "Civilized man has opened his door to many animals. There is, of course, the cat. But one cannot own a cat: one merely provides it with a home. Imperial, even in the recklessness of his wooing, the cat 'walks alone.' Slit-eyed, he may share our kitchen fire, but we are not deceived. Neither is he. He sees through us. He has never surrendered his return ticket to the jungle. . . .

"Surely the dog need fear few rivals to our hearths, none to our hearts."—Stanley West in *THE BOOK OF DOGS* (Appleton-Century).

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1936*

## PSYCHOLOGY

### Freedom's Cry

● "Man's unwillingness to have either his ideas or his behavior prescribed is revealed in many ways. A person often refuses to accept an idea that is presented directly or to perform an act that is requested in a mandatory way, but acquiesces later when the dictatorial person is not observing him. . . . Almost everyone has had occasion to observe responses such as these to 'back-seat' driving, for example. Similarly, the cry for liberty one hears everywhere is, among other things, an expression of a desire to feel free to order one's own life."—Wendell White in *THE PSYCHOLOGY OF DEALING WITH PEOPLE* (Macmillan).

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1936*

## ASTRONOMY

### Saving Time

● "Every day millions of mortals waste precious moments in mental gymnastics endeavoring to determine the proper date. If we *must* submit to a new calendar, let it be a simple one this time, such as the thirteen-month calendar. According to a report of the International Calendar Reform Association, one hundred and forty large concerns in the United States . . . are using a thirteen-month calendar in their accounting departments. With this calendar it would not be necessary to tear off the past month on the first of the next, for the thirteen-month calendar *always* reads as indicated on the next page. The name 'Sol' has been submitted for the proposed new month, and it is suggested that it be placed between June and July."—Walter Bartky in *HIGHLIGHTS OF ASTRONOMY* (Univ. of Chicago Press).

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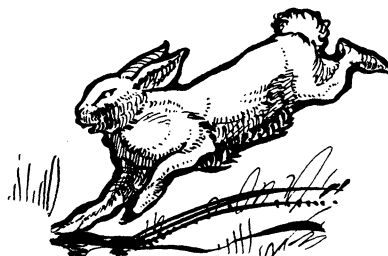
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### Jumbled Names

**N**AMES are supposed to be, in effect, brief definitions. Things called by the same name are supposed to be alike; things that are not alike are supposed to be given different and distinctive names. But because we are often a bit fuzzy in our ideas of what things are alike, and what are unlike, we fall very easily into a very Babel-confusion of misnaming.

Sometimes the error arises through lack of the technical knowledge needed to split superficially similar things into classes that represent their real differences. Frequently this lack will be in a very simple and elementary department of knowledge, where the average man is as well equipped to know (and hence to distinguish) as the scientist or philosopher.

Thus, of the long-eared, long-legged, leaping animals we commonly know simply as rabbits, there are two distinct classes or groups. The animals in one class never dig burrows, and their proper name is hares. Those in the other class do dig burrows, and they are the real rabbits. All species of native American "rabbits" are non-burrowers, and should therefore be called hares. But they never will be, of course.

A more frequent cause of misnaming is an easy-going pragmatic habit of calling things by the same name if there is a superficial resemblance, even when it is realized that there really is a basic difference. Our American robin, for example, was named by homesick English settlers for its resemblance to the red-breasted little bird they had known at home. Really the two birds do not even look very much alike; and in the ornithologist's lists of species they are yards apart.

Another source of nomenclatural confusion is the lumping of things found

in the same place, or having similar general habits. We all know that oysters, clams, and other creatures we call shellfish are not fish, but because they live in the water we keep on calling them by the name of an entirely different class of animals that also live in the water. Similarly, we give false ichthyological tags to such diverse and utterly un-fishlike things as cuttlefish, jellyfish, and starfish.

There is no use scolding ourselves about this laxity in handing out wrong names, even though it actually does a certain amount of harm in fixing wrong notions in people's heads. It is too old a habit, and of too long standing, to do anything about it. But it might nevertheless be a wholesome thing if we were to stop once in a while, in the presence of almost any object, and ask ourselves, "Is this thing really what I am calling it?"

*Science News Letter, April 11, 1936*

### MUSEUMS

## Night-Illuminated Museum Offers "Spooky" Sights

See Front Cover

**S**CARY folk, who shiver at skeletons even in broad daylight, had best keep away from the neighborhood of museums at night. Else they may be treated to a view of a spooky-looking array of bones apparently suspended by magic in the lurid light within. Actually, of course, the thing is nothing but the skeleton of some sea creature hung from the ceiling to spare floor space. The picture was taken through the windows of the U. S. National Museum in Washington.

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