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country, have also used both metrazol and insulin, alone and together, for patients suffering from the widespread mental disease, schizophrenia.

A tendency toward relapse from the improvement following insulin treatment for schizophrenia, makes these doctors feel that this now widely used treatment "fails to offer any special outlook for the future."

They emphasized that in spite of the striking results with insulin and metrazol, treatment of mental disease must continue along broad lines in which the patient's mental functioning and his past, present and future life situations are taken into consideration.

Takes Stand on Spinach

Spinach is good for you, the American Medical Association announced.

Recent scientific studies having tended to put spinach at least on the road to the doghouse if not actually in it, with consequent confusion in many an American home, the association's council on foods looked into the matter. They reported that:

"Spinach is a wholesome and valuable food, a rich source of vitamin A and also contributes vitamin C, iron and roughage to the diet. The evidence shows, however, that the iron in spinach is not wholly available nor is it a good source for infants in amounts they can digest. The calcium is not utilized because it is present largely in an insoluble form."

Which means that baby may have to be given iron from some other source, but that big brother and sister and papa and mama should go right on eating their spinach.

Conference on Patents

A national conference of all medical patent holders to be held at the headquarters of the association was suggested by the board of trustees as a means of settling the controversial problem of what to do about patents on medical discoveries, such as that of insulin.

At present such patents are held and administered by universities, special committees and foundations and by individual physicians. While physicians are prevented by the association's principles of ethics from deriving any income from medical discoveries, technicians or lay persons connected with the same discoveries, it was pointed out, may profit directly.

It also appears to the medical asso-

ciation's board of trustees that patents held under present conditions may be used to influence medical research.

Don't Rent Radium

The present widespread practice of renting radium by physicians who do not own and are not experienced in the use of this powerful substance was frowned on by the judicial council of the association. It is considered dangerous for a physician inexperienced in the use of radium to use it merely on the advice of another physician who owns a supply of radium but who has not seen the patient, or from a commercial firm owning the radium. Such a procedure, the council decided, amounts to the unethical practice of prescribing for a patient whom the prescriber has not examined.

May Damage Brain

The baby's brain may be seriously damaged by giving too large doses of pain-relieving drugs to the mother during childbirth, Dr. Frederic Schreiber of Detroit concluded from analysis of case records of 500 children with degenerative changes in their brains.

Nearly three-fourths, 72 per cent., of these children had not breathed immediately after birth or had difficulty in breathing within the first few days, Dr. Schreiber's study of the records showed. He believes that this disturbance in breathing, whatever the cause, was the reason for the damage to the child's brain.

One of the effects of the pain-relieving drugs given in childbirth, he pointed out, is to depress the breathing apparatus of the mother. This might occur to such a degree as to endanger the unborn child who is still dependent on his mother for oxygen and nourishment.

In one group of 100 cases in which a pain-killing drug or an anesthetic or both had been given to the mother, records showed that 77 babies had difficulty in breathing. The records also showed that the average dose of drugs given the mother was four times the ordinary quantity recommended and in some cases was ten times the recommended dose.

Examination after death shows that deficiency of oxygen causes microscopic changes in the brain and Dr. Schreiber believes that the difference between a living baby with a brain damaged from this cause and one born dead is probably only a matter of degree.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1938

ENTOMOLOGY

Government Chief Approves Insect Collecting As Hobby

ENDORSEMENT for the Science Service article on page 399, on insect collecting as a hobby and as inexpensive summer fun with lasting value, comes from the head of Uncle Sam's insect fighters, Dr. Lee A. Strong, chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Strong says:

"The hobby of making collections of insects appears to me to be a good one. Although many people recognize that insects play an important part in our welfare, few realize how many kinds there are or how widely they differ in structure and habits.

"Not all of them are pests—many are very beneficial, others are of little known importance to man. Much of the information on the occurrence of this vast number of insects has been assembled through the effort and interest of those who have studied and collected them as a hobby.

"The insects which attack crops and man's possessions cause annual losses which have been estimated as high as \$3,000,000,000. Much of this can be prevented by applying control measures now known.

"With more information about insects and fuller realization of the importance of them as pests, it is fair to assume that the tribute now paid because of them will be adjusted to the favor of man and his welfare. The collection and study of them, even as a summer pastime, will contribute towards this end."

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SEISMOLOGY

Geological Society Grant For Earthquake Studies

DR. Perry Byerly, professor of seismology at the University of California, has been awarded a grant by the Geological Society of America from the Penrose bequest to study the vibration of the earth's crust during earthquakes.

Detailed measurements of the rates of vibration at all stations of the network operated by the University of California will be made during this study, to see just how fast the ground vibrates at each station during a quake.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1938