



Laboratory tests have shown that by regulating the "interpolated" learning, it was possible to make people forget anywhere from 5 to 90 per cent of what they had previously learned.

The student will remember his tomorrow's lesson better if he goes directly to sleep after learning it than he will if he goes out tonight to a party or to an entertaining show.

The influence of surroundings is also shown, Dr. McGeoch pointed out, in the greater ease which many people experience in working at their familiar desk, and in the difficulty of working as well in a strange office.

We do not forget everything we learn, he said, because somehow these two factors, new learning and new surroundings, are prevented from having their full effect.

We usually remember anything which has been well learned, especially when we try to recall it in a familiar setting.

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reality, is much less efficient on the average.

Finally, scientists point out, the release of atomic energy from uranium need arouse few fears about explosions in nature set off by these physical researches. The very heavy elements in which such an energy release can be secured occur only in very small amounts in the earth's crust and they are greatly contaminated with other elements which do not yield atomic energy. This means that the release of atomic energy can only be achieved by direct intent, in the laboratory, and then only with considerable ingenuity of experiment.

Besides the astounding amount of energy liberated from the uranium atoms, the following appear to be the important consequences of the newest researches:

1. For the first time something other than atomic particles or radiation (alpha and beta particles, positrons, neutrons and gamma rays) has emerged from atom smashing. Uranium seems to be split into two parts, which may prove to be the elements barium and krypton, whose atomic masses add up approximately to that of uranium.

2. The supposed existence of the trans-uranium elements, those numbered 93, 94, 95, 96, heavier than uranium, is called into question. These superheavy elements may be merely forms of barium.

3. The radioactive "time clock" method of determining the age of the earth may be proved wrong if uranium can split up in the strange new manner.

4. Science has a new atomic mechan-

ism that may account for the tremendous energy that keeps the stars shining through the ages.

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### PSYCHOLOGY

## Psychology of a Sissy Urged as Scientific Study

THE SISSY is nominated for psychological study by Dr. Joseph Chassell, psychiatrist at Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, Towson, Md.

No one really understands the sissy, Dr. Chassell points out in *Psychiatry*, although many an American boy is entirely preoccupied with the task of proving that he is not one.

Just what is a sissy? The term is well understood even in nursery school, and yet it would be hard to define it.

It does not mean "girlish," for girls can be sissies, too, or they can demonstrate that they are not. And a boy may even be effeminate without rating as a sissy.

Cries of "Sissy! Sissy!" accompanied by a gesture with the two forefingers familiar to all disdaining juveniles, is alternated with the chant, "Just a little baby!"

And yet mere youth does not make a sissy, either. It is a certain kind of immaturity. Boys may demonstrate while they are yet in rompers that sissiness is not for them. And the most unsophisticated, innocent, naive lad may be far removed from the sissy class.

Even the mother's darling with long curls and Lord Fauntleroy collar, Dr. Chassell said, may be recognized by the brotherhood as actually no sissy.

No, it seems to be not so much any of these things as an intangible feeling that they do not belong in the group of other boys. They are not in the gang.

The sissy seems to have a misapprehension of the world as a place where terrible things are always happening and where one must become some vague sort of superman in order to succeed.

Other humans are not seen as persons, he suggested, but as potentially friendly or hostile fairy-book creatures.

The sissy's idea of masculinity, he said, is a caricature built up with the aid of stories of the Wild West, Indian fighting, gangsters, and Buck Rogers. From this view of manhood is born a deep desire to turn away from it into mother's arms, which in its turn must be repressed.

When psychologists have made the study of the sissy, they should tackle next the sissifying mother, Dr. Chassell urged.

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