

EVOLUTION OF THE AUTO

Will it develop along line shown here? Engineer Edwin L. Allen of the Standard Products Company thinks so, and told the World Automotive Engineering Congress not only of the streamlining to come, but also of such conveniences as movable seats, a roof fitted with transparent plastic panels that let in ultra violet light, and air conditioning (See SNL, June 3). The chief change required to give autos the shape shown in the last drawing is putting the engine in the rear.

PHYSIOLOGY

May Fight Tooth Decay Through Drinking Water

“Startling Finding” Reveals Possibility That Fluorine or Other Chemical May Prevent Caries

DRINKING water may be the weapon of tomorrow for fighting and conquering tooth decay or dental caries. This possibility looms as a result of a “startling finding” reported by Dr. H. Trendley Dean and associates of the U. S. Public Health Service.

The amount of tooth decay among school children is not the same in one town after another, as might be expected. There was double and treble as much found among children in two Illinois cities, Macomb and Quincy, for example, as in the nearby cities of Galesburg and Monmouth. The difference, it appears, is related to differences in the water supplies, and particularly to differences in the amounts of fluorine in the drinking water.

Fluorine in drinking water is the cause of the ugly tooth condition of mottled enamel. But in Galesburg and Monmouth, where the water contains 1.8 and 1.7 parts per million of fluorine, the threshold of safety for mottled enamel, the children’s teeth showed much less

decay than in the towns of Macomb and Quincy where the drinking water contained only 0.2 parts per million of fluorine.

Dr. Dean is not yet ready to advise adding fluorine to drinking water to prevent tooth decay. Before recommending such a step he wants more evidence to show that it is the fluorine and not some other constituent of the drinking water that makes the difference in the amount of dental decay. But he called the latest findings “startling” and said that they show the drinking water may be “decidedly important” in connection with the tooth decay problem.

Dental caries or tooth decay is second only to the common cold as the commonest of mankind’s ills, affecting at least 19 out of 20 persons.

Science News Letter, June 10, 1939

A polar bear shot in Quebec Province last autumn must have traveled nearly 400 miles from James Bay through dense forest and along rivers.

PSYCHOLOGY—SOCIOLOGY

Marriage Courses Neglect Practical Topics Desired

BOWING to the demands of practical-minded students, more and more conservative colleges are adding to the curriculum courses of preparation for marriage.

This is applauded by social scientists who look upon the failure of any marriage as a concern of society as well as the individual husbands and wives.

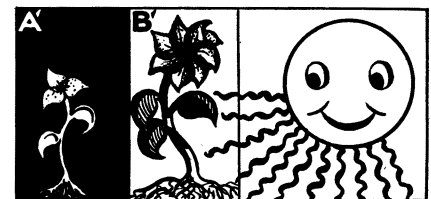
But the content of the courses still falls far short of what the students want and society needs, in the opinion of an expert in this field, Dr. Paul Popenoe, director of the Institute of Family Relations in Los Angeles.

Too much emphasis is placed, he thinks, on divorce, which leads all other topics in the frequency with which it is discussed in marriage courses.

“Divorce,” declares Dr. Popenoe, writing in the *Journal of Social Hygiene*, “is not an evil; it is merely the symptom of the real evil, which is unhappy marriage.”

Altogether too much time is devoted to philosophizing and reviewing the institution of marriage as it existed in earlier times and remote places. Eugenic aspects of marriage are discussed, and legal aspects and religion in the home.

Contrast such generalized topics with the practical questions asked by boys in Haverford College for Frank D. Watson



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