

Africa, and has just been made available to other scientists.

Although many cases of "wild children," little Mowglis reported brought up by wild beasts of the jungle, have gained prominence from time to time, this "appears to be the first case of a human child adopted and reared by infra-human primates," Dr. John P. Foley, Jr., of the George Washington University, said in reporting his correspondence with Dr. Dart to the scientific journal, *Science*. (March 22.)

Dr. Dart investigated the case by writing to the mental hospital where the child was said to have been taken when "trapped" about 1903 and to the police headquarters for information of his discovery. Although the mental hos-

pital was unable to find any records because it is not known under what name he was admitted there, the police were able to locate a Constable W. J. Coetzer, who had heard the story of the boy's discovery from ex-Lance Sergeant C. Holsen, now dead, who was a member of the patrol who found him.

The "Baboon Boy" is now a man of 49. On the farm of George W. Smith, he developed into a dependable worker "remarkably intelligent," learned to speak English, and was able to relate details of his past life among the baboons. However, he "took no account of time, or even of dawn or evening." He had apparently lived with the baboons from infancy until he was about 12 or 14 years old.

Science News Letter, April 6, 1940

GENERAL SCIENCE

Scientists of All Americas To Meet in Washington

Eighth American Scientific Congress Will Celebrate Fiftieth Anniversary of Pan American Union

PLANES para la movilización de todas las fuerzas científicas de las Américas para atacar, en concierto, al principal enemigo del hombre, la ignorancia, siguen tomando forma en Washington.

GRADUALMENTE vão tomando forma os planos que se preparam em Washington para a mobilização de todos os elementos científicos das nações americanas, para entrar em luta combinada contra o principal inimigo do homem—a ignorância.

PLANS for a mobilization of all the scientific power of the Americas in a concerted battle against man's chief foe, ignorance, are taking shape in Washington.

The Eighth American Scientific Congress will bring together in Washington on May 10 delegates and participants from all the American Republics, members of the Pan American Union, where they will take part in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Union and participate in an exchange of knowledge in eleven scientific sections.

The sections of the Congress are: *Anthropological Sciences*, presided over by Dr. Herbert J. Spinden, curator of

American Indian Art and Primitive Cultures, Brooklyn Museum. The problems to be discussed in this section are mainly those of international interest and include those in the field of psychology.

Biological Sciences, with Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, professor emeritus of Princeton University, as chairman. Biology, physiology, botany, zoology and economic botany and zoology are included in this section.

Geological Sciences, under the chairmanship of Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, president of the Geological Society of America. Geology of metal and mineral resources, including oil fields, and the volcanology of Central and South America will be among the important matters discussed in this section.

Agriculture and Conservation, Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, chief of the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Chairman. In this field, the Americas have much in common.

Public Health and Medicine, Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon-general of the United States Public Health Service, Chairman. Seven subjects of a very practical nature have been agreed upon for discussion, including: Nutrition, Tuberculosis, Cancer, Chemotherapy, Heart Diseases, Rehabilitation of Physically

Handicapped Children, and Tropical and Other Diseases.

Physical and Chemical Sciences, Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, director of the National Bureau of Standards, Chairman. Of common interest to all participants are researches in location and utilization of petroleum, transportation of fruits and meats, testing and purification of sugar, and determination of quality of textiles.

Statistics, Dr. Stuart A. Rice, chairman of the Central Statistical Board, Chairman. Trade statistics, industrial statistics, vital statistics, and development of a continuing professional medium for interchange of ideas and information are among the topics for this section.

History and Geography, Dr. Clarence H. Haring, professor of Latin American History and Economics at Harvard University, Chairman.

International Law, Public Law, and Jurisprudence, Dr. James Brown Scott, secretary, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Chairman.

Economics and Sociology, Dr. Harold G. Moulton, president of the Brookings Institution, Chairman.

Education, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, Chairman.

At a time when many of the major countries of the world are devoting all their energies to armed conflict and war activities, this meeting of American scientists and scholars is dedicated to promoting friendly relations, better understanding and close collaboration for the conquering of the common foes of all mankind.

Science News Letter, April 6, 1940

MEDICINE

Inflamed Pancreas Likely For Habitual Drunkards

THE AFTERMATH of a prolonged bout of heavy drinking is likely to be an inflammation of the pancreas which may result in death, Dr. Eugene Clark, assistant medical examiner, New York City, warned at the meeting of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists in Pittsburgh.

The disease is more likely to occur in habitual drunkards than in those who occasionally become intoxicated, Dr. Clark found. It bears "as striking a relationship to long continued heavy alcoholic indulgence as does cirrhosis of the liver," he said.

He reported details of the condition of the pancreas at death in 44 cases of acute and chronic alcoholism examined at autopsy in the laboratories of Bellevue

Hospital and the office of the Chief Medical Examiner, New York City. In 19 of these the pancreas condition was so severe as to be held responsible for the deaths. A history of long continued heavy indulgence in alcohol was obtained in 11 of these and in at least nine cases the onset of the pancreas disease was preceded by an alcoholic bout. The frequency with which inflammation of the pancreas and alcoholism are associated is indicated from the fact that 27 of the reported cases were found in about 150 consecutively autopsied cases of acute and chronic alcoholism dying in Bellevue Hospital.

The pancreas condition is not significantly associated with cirrhosis of the liver, Dr. Clark said. Cirrhosis of the liver was absent as often as it was present in the cases of the pancreas disease.

Science News Letter, April 6, 1940

Chemical Hardens Arteries

HARDENING of the arteries is due fundamentally and directly to undernourishment of the walls of the arteries, in the opinion of Dr. W. C. Hueper, New York City. Support for his theory appeared in experiments in which he treated rats with the chemical, erythrol tetranitrate. This substance lowers both blood pressure and the amount of oxygen in the blood. As a result, nourishment of the arteries might be impaired. In the experiments Dr. Hueper reported to the Pathologists' meeting, the rats after treatment with this substance developed sclerotic or hardened arteries of the heart, lung, kidneys and certain other organs.

Science News Letter, April 6, 1940

TECHNOLOGY

Novel Use of Paint In Industry's Building

VERMILION ceilings with center medallion done in white, walls caenstone color. This is how national headquarters for the paint, varnish and lacquer industries have decorated the entrance into their new offices in what was once the home of Vice-President Levi P. Morton. Other uses of color chosen for light reflection value as well as beauty: soft light blue on the walls of the stenographic room, walls of old burgandy in a room with a beautiful carved white Carrara marble fire place, laboratories in tints of pale green, yellow and gray, three shades of blue in another office, cafe au lait and muskmelon tint for still another office, and fireplace mantel in the library, vermilion, antiqued with black.

Science News Letter, April 6, 1940



DAMAGE

Half buried in a sand-bag pit a five-pound Barlow bomb produced enough concussion to knock the side off a nearby shed. In the illustration on the front cover of this week's "Science News Letter," the boards can be seen in the air as they leave the shed. The compression wave of this blast was strongly felt by observers behind distant sand-bag barricades. Photos on cover and this and facing pages by Fremont Davis, Science Service staff photographer.

MILITARY SCIENCE

Barlow Demonstrates Safety Of Oxygen-Carbon Bomb

But Experts Point to Long History of Such Explosives In War and Mining To Justify Their Strong Skepticism

See Front Cover

INVENTOR Lester P. Barlow and his colleague, G. B. Holderer, explosives consultant, did everything but jump on his liquid oxygen-carbon explosive bombs to prove their safety from shock, at the proving ground of the Glenn L. Martin airplane plant at Middle River, Md. They burned the bombs, fired rifle bullets into them, shot them out of a trench mortar 500 feet into the air, shot them against a steel plate so that they ricocheted 300 feet—all without explosions.

After each "safety" test they took the battered bomb and exploded it with startling effectiveness by blasting caps.

But unanswered riddles after a five-hour-long demonstration included the Barlow bomb's effectiveness compared with TNT and whether it could be applied to military purposes. In fairness to the inventor it must be said that in his recent demonstration he sought only to prove the safety of his explosive to shock.

Claim of Mr. Bar- (Turn to page 222)

THE Senate Military Affairs Committee may have burned the recent, secret testimony of Lester P. Barlow about his liquid oxygen-carbon bomb but it is likely that at least 99% of the facts about the explosive are contained in technical libraries and have been known for years.

There is more than a suspicion that Mr. Barlow's "glmite" explosive is just L.O.X. rechristened. L.O.X. stands for liquid oxygen explosive which is a term coined back in the 1920's by one of the nation's foremost authorities on the explosive properties of liquid oxygen and carbon: Dr. G. S. Rice, former chief mining engineer of the U. S. Bureau of Mines who retired in 1937.

From recent publicity one might think that Barlow's use of liquid oxygen adsorbed by powdered carbon was the newest of the new when, as a matter of fact, liquid oxygen explosives were among the reasons which made the German high command confidently prepared to begin the World War, as it could be substituted for nitrated explosives formerly obtained by importation from Chile.