

self in the place of her favorite characters. Even in taking medicine, she expected to receive the magic powers some of the characters acquired from a "miracle pill."

This was encouraged by the hospital staff for "constant reading of comic books had the effect of diluting her conflicts over her close tie to her father, since over and over again good fought evil in the stories and always triumphed."

As Tessie put it, "the funnies do my imagining for me."

*Science News Letter, August 23, 1941*

ZOOLOGY

**Apes Have Preferred Hand; Half Are "Southpaws"**

**C**HIMPANZEES, like their human relatives, have one hand they would rather use than the other. Right-handed animals and "southpaws" were just about equally numerous in 30 animals tested by Dr. Glen Finch at the Yale Laboratories of Primate Biology.

For the test, each chimpanzee was isolated where he could not "ape" other animals, Dr. Finch said in describing the experiment. (*Science*, Aug. 1.) The animal had to reach through a two-inch square hole in the wire netting of the cage to get the piece of luscious fruit he saw there. The experimenter stood ready to snatch it away quickly in case the chimp reached with a foot or his lips, or grabbed greedily with both hands.

Eighteen of the animals used one hand consistently in more than 90% of the 800 trials given. Of these, nine were right-handed and nine left-handed.

Twenty-five out of the 30 animals tested used the same hand in 80% (640) of the trials. Of these a little more than half (14) were left-handed.

*Science News Letter, August 23, 1941*

CHEMISTRY

**Wax For Polishes May Come From Green Cotton**

**Scientists of U. S. Department of Agriculture, Collaborating With Chemical Company, Studying Field**

**W**AX for use in polishes, to supplement overseas supplies now threatened with war shortages, may be obtained from a freak variety of cotton that is green instead of white. Scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, collaborating with a chemical company interested in waxes, are now surveying possibilities. The company has five acres of the green-lint cotton growing in South Carolina now, for experimental purposes.

All cotton contains a little wax, but the ordinary varieties grown for fiber contain only about one-half of one per cent. The green variety, known as Arkansas Green Lint, sometimes yields as much as 17%. Its staple spins well, but the wax content is so high that the yarn cannot be dyed unless specially treated.

Best possibilities, however, seem to be in growing the cotton primarily for the wax. This is regarded as promising because it is hard to melt, a property in demand by manufacturers of polishes for shoes, furniture, floors and automobiles. It is estimated that under average growing conditions a wax yield worth close to \$20 an acre should be possible. The lint remaining after wax extraction is a high-grade cellulose suitable for use in plastics, rayon and similar products.

*Science News Letter, August 23, 1941*

When completed, the *hydro-electric* plant of Grand Coulee Dam will have a capacity of 1,920,000 kilowatts, which is one-twelfth of the electric power now generated in the United States.

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by Tom Wintringham

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