

tumors of the uterus grow only during the years of active ovarian function and

begin to shrink after the change of life or if the ovaries are surgically removed."

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## PSYCHOLOGY

## "Door-Key Children"

Youngsters who used to stay only a short while on the playground now arrive in the early morning with the front door key and money for the evening meal.

► "DOOR-KEY" CHILDREN of war workers are a new problem in many communities. Supplying these offspring of the war and their parents with proper recreation was the main problem of the War Recreation Congress meeting in Cincinnati.

Children whose parents are at work or war, often come to the playgrounds in the morning bringing the front door key with them. Children who used to stay only a short while now remain all day until mother returns from work.

On a Baltimore playground the youngsters deposit their keys on a key-board when they enter, Ruth Garber Ehlers, Baltimore supervisor of social recreation, reported. Many of them check marketing money with the leader. When it is time to go home, the leader returns keys and the grocery money for the evening meal.

Special central playgrounds have been established in defense areas so that the children can be cared for.

"Stowaways" have even been found here. Tots in baby carriages, too young to be accepted at the playgrounds, are left there when the leader isn't looking. The mothers go to work.

To care for these "defense work orphans," day nurseries have been opened in Paterson, N. J. Admission is 25 cents per day "American plan," according to William Brutterri, acting superintendent of recreation there.

Canada has found this problem serious enough to set up a government sponsored plan, Jean Hall, Women's Division of Canadian National Selective Service, told the Congress. The new program to care for children of war workers will go into effect within the next few weeks. Thousands of married women with children, answered the first call for workers without making proper provision for their offspring.

The Canadian plan, perhaps a foretaste of things to come in this country, provides nursery care for small children. Lunches will be served to school child-

ren and they will be cared for after school hours until their mothers return from factories. There is also provision in the government plan for "foster homes" for those who prefer that type of care.

Despite separation of families by war work, after-hours recreation is helping to bring adults and children closer together in their relationships, said Russell J. Foval, superintendent of recreation at Alton, Ill., in addressing the meeting. Adult participation on the same playgrounds with the young people is reported greater than ever before.

Working at top speed in war plants, sometimes beset with war worries, such wholesome recreation is essential.

As war plants are thrown up, working hours "staggered" and now gasoline rationed, it is increasingly difficult to carry on the usual recreational program at industrial plants. Industries are doing what they can, but permanent facilities at the plants are often practically useless except for lunch hour or pre- and post-shift programs, W. H. Edmund of the Goodyear Aircraft Corporation, pointed out in one of the discussion groups of the War Recreation Congress. New industries, in many cases, are promoting and using community facilities in the neighborhoods where the employees live.

Other recreation leaders present also concentrated on plans to minimize the effect of war on the physical and mental health of John Q. Public.

"War inevitably distorts life," declared Ray Johns, director of field operations for the U. S. O., in addressing the War Recreation Congress. "War pressures and tensions can be met only by persons who have reserves of physical, intellectual, and spiritual resources. Recreation in war-time has an important role to play. Recreation is not a peace-time luxury; it is a war-time necessity. Recreation is more than an escape from war's tensions . . . Recreation maintains, creates morale."

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**GUAYULE**—These plants are two years old and contain about 9% rubber of dry weight.

## AGRICULTURE

## Rubber Is Being Grown In California Valley

See Front Cover

► A SEA of guayule plants which will do their bit toward relieving the rubber shortage is shown under cultivation on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

It is the plantation of the Intercontinental Rubber Producers in the Salinas Valley, California, which is said to be the only place in the world where guayule is being cultivated. The plant grows wild in United States and elsewhere.

Rubber can be extracted from the plant after one year's growth, but the best yields are obtained after four years.

The rubber does not occur as latex, as in rubber trees, but as solid particles and shreds embedded in the tissues of the plant, amounting to 18% to 20% of the weight of the plant. In harvesting the entire plant is pulled up roots and all. It is chopped up and ground in water and the rubber floats to the surface.

The photograph on the cover and those on these pages are official pictures from the files of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Farm Security Administration.

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