

PSYCHOLOGY

More Women Reach 100

Centenarians studied by psychologist are busy people with plans for the future. They have hobbies, romances and sense of humor.

► IF YOU want to live to be a hundred, marry, keep busy, love romance, make plans for the future, have pride in your personal appearance, develop a hobby and sharpen your sense of humor.

This would seem to be the prescription that might be written as a result of a study of a twenty-year crop of centenarians numbering 450 made by Dr. Grace E. Bird, professor emeritus of the Rhode Island State College of Education. Of these, 350 are still living.

"Life for some may begin at 100, instead of 40," Dr. Bird told the Eastern Psychological Association meeting in New York. She located the long-lived men and women of her study with the aid of two Eastern newspapers, but the individuals themselves were located in every state of the union.

About twice as many women as men live to be 100 or more, and all but eight of the women were married. Many had raised large families of children.

All were interested in life and most of them in romance. One lady cynically stated that she was "through with men," but she was just recovering from a recent disappointing romance with a 77-year-old suitor.

A man at the age of 111 regretted

that his 30 children were not present on his birthday.

The jobs of men and women over 100 are varied and may be strenuous. One man at 100 is an airplane spotter. Another chops wood. A woman, at 100, works in her son's candy shop. One man was appointed deputy sheriff at the age of 100. Another man supervises the care of 68 cattle, six horses, and two mules in Arizona. One woman is an artist still painting. One preaches in a small church every Sunday.

One centenarian, still alert, was rejected as a volunteer for the Civil War, because he was at that time considered physically unfit.

Many of the group are college graduates. Six were high ranking Army officers, one a United States Senator, three clergymen, one a teacher, three physicians and one a film actress who made her debut in Hollywood at 100.

When physical old age slows down activity, the aged can be an inspiration instead of a burden if their mental powers are preserved," Dr. Bird concluded. "Under right conditions there is no known limit to their usefulness."

Science News Letter, May 15, 1943

ENGINEERING

Air Forces Number 13

Air Transport Command which supplies them is world's biggest air line with four routes to England, Africa, China and Australia.

► THE PRESENT American air war of global extent, being fought on many fronts by 13 organized air forces, is possible because of the speed with which the Air Transport Command was organized and the efficiency with which it has carried out its hazardous task, declared Lieut. Col. Nathaniel F. Silsbee of the United States Army Air Corps, speaking before the Aviation Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He called the expansion of the

Air Transport Command in a few months' time phenomenal.

"Taking advantage of the vast pioneering experience of Pan-American, and ably assisted by many of our domestic lines, the Air Transport Command . . . developed four great airways and in terms of distance and volume of traffic has become the world's biggest air line," Col. Silsbee stated.

"The four routes are the North Atlantic to England; the South Atlantic to

Africa, via South America; and from Africa to Iran, India, and China, the South Pacific to our island bases and Australia; and northwest to Alaska."

These routes are "aerial life lines". No fighting front is more than 50 to 60 hours distance from any other front or from the home bases. Over these routes hundreds of transport and cargo planes are daily carrying men and munitions, parts and supplies for the round-the-world air force and other fighting units.

Speed in delivering men and war equipment is all-important, the speaker declared. Spare parts for replacements in warplanes damaged in fighting must be rushed to the scene of action so that the planes may be quickly repaired in the field and returned to service. War equipment delivered to fighting men to meet emergencies has been the turning point on several fighting fronts. Urgently needed parts flown to Egypt helped to turn Rommel, and again air-carried equipment prevented the Japs from taking Port Moresby and Guadalcanal.

Col. Silsbee discussed the various types of airplanes and the part each is playing in the war. "There is no 'best' plane," he said. Each plane does best what it is designed to do.

Science News Letter, May 15, 1943

GENERAL SCIENCE

National Academy Medals Awarded to Scientists

► THE HONORS list of the National Academy of Sciences meeting in Washington was as follows:

The John J. Carty medal and award for the advancement of science for 1943 to Dr. Edwin Grant Conklin of Princeton University and president of the American Philosophical Society, in recognition of his services to science as zoologist, cytologist, embryologist; philosopher, teacher and scientist; student of life and of growth from lowliest beginnings to highest confirmation.

Henry Draper Medal for 1942 to Dr. Ira Sprague Bowen of California Institute of Technology in recognition of his contribution to astronomical physics.

Agassiz medal for 1942 to Dr. Columbus O'Donnell Iselin, II, Director of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

The Daniel Giraud Elliot medal for 1936 to Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, of the American Museum of Natural History.

The Daniel Giraud Elliot medal for 1935 to Dr. Edwin H. Colbert of the American Museum of Natural History.

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