

Do You Know?

Garden *perennials* benefit from early use of a complete fertilizer.

Contrary to common belief, *heart disease* is no more prevalent among medical men than it is among laymen.

Sesame seed is approximately one-half oil, one of the best edible oils known and one of the first used.

In China many persons have *pet birds* that they take out in their cages daily for an airing as regularly as Americans take their dogs out on a leash.

Carnations were popular in Europe during past centuries because of their beauty and also because they were thought to have healing properties.

The African *chameleon* can keep one eye focussed on a fly ahead of him that he is stalking, while he turns the other to observe a potential enemy off to one side.

American *chemicals* are now shipped to practically every important country, particularly industrial compounds, refrigerants, insecticides, fertilizers, paints, plastics and medicinals.

German bread, coated with a 50% water emulsion of polyvinyl acetate containing various proportions of chalk, talc, and lithopene, showed only slight signs of interior mold growth after eight months.

YOUR HAIR and Its Care

By Oscar L. Levin, M.D.
and Howard T. Behrman, M.D.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

International Studies

Large-scale laboratories for astronomy, health, food, marine biology and nuclear energy as part of UNESCO program urged by Dr. Shapley.

► INTERNATIONAL, large-scale scientific institutions for research and development in various fields were proposed by Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory and president of Science Service.

Dr. Shapley discussed the program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a guest of Watson Davis, director of Science Service, on Adventures in Science heard over the Columbia network.

Calling on UNESCO to consider the possibilities of establishing international centers for scientific studies, Dr. Shapley suggested large-scale laboratories for astronomy, health, food, marine biology and nuclear energy.

He declared that the plutonium atom fissions just the same way in whatever nation it happens to be located, and reported that astronomers continued to exchange data with Nazi observers during the war.

"Whenever the military men and the political powers that be don't interfere, scientists can get together despite barriers of language, space and different government," Dr. Shapley said.

Referring to UNESCO, he declared, "There has been good cooperation in many scientific fields in the past, but we are on the threshold of much greater cooperation."

The Harvard astronomer urged the UNESCO Preparatory Commission to consider the establishment of international science centers such as the "Copernician Memorial Observatory," for which he first outlined plans in 1944.

"Equipment for modest researches and for instruction should of course be maintained in all countries, but great observatories are expensive, and their locations should be carefully chosen," he pointed out.

He reported that the proposed international observatory plans had been heartily endorsed by astronomers of many countries at the International Astronomical Union meetings in Copenhagen, Denmark, several weeks ago.

For medical research, he suggested a "Pasteur International Health Research Institute," while an "International Center

for New Food Plants" would have experiment stations strategically located throughout the world.

Dr. Shapley said an "International Marine Biological Station" might be modeled on the one at Naples, Italy, and there should be an "International Center for the Study of Nuclear Energy."

"If a million dollars a year could be spent by UNESCO in building up these international enterprises, and within a few years three or four million dollars a year be spent in maintaining their useful and ever expanding international services," he declared, "the future of UNESCO as a great contributor to world peace would be assured."

Science News Letter, April 27, 1946

ENGINEERING

Air-Conditioner For High-Speed Planes

► YESTERDAY our fighting pilots flew their planes at 400 miles an hour; tomorrow we shall be riding as passengers at similar speeds. Taking outside air into plane cabins at such a gait is no simple matter of using an open air-scoop, states Waldemar F. Mayer of Los Angeles, in his preamble to patent 2,398,655. At 400-mile speeds, air "rams" and becomes too hot for human comfort. He accordingly places an air-driven turbine in the throat of his air intake, and uses the power thus picked up to drive a refrigerating system which in turn cools the air.

Science News Letter, April 27, 1946

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by
W. H. GEORGE

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