

and involves the removal of one of the convolutions of the frontal lobes of the brain.

Seven cases in which bilateral frontal gyrectomy was performed were studied as well as eight other cases in which another brain operation, lobotomy, was used. In lobotomy, the nerve connections between certain parts of the brain are cut.

A consistent drop in general intelligence, as measured by a standard mental test, the Wechsler-Bellevue Intelligence Scale, was found following the operations. There was a significant drop in ability to define words.

These cases, Dr. Malmo said, offered an excellent opportunity to study the effects on intelligence of these types of brain operation, because the patients had not

reached a state of personality deterioration before the operation.

Contrasted with Dr. Malmo's findings on the effects of the brain operations was the report by Dr. Lucille B. Kessler, of Traverse City State Hospital, Mich., on the effects of electric shock therapy on the intelligence of patients with the mental disease schizophrenia.

The 20 patients studied by Dr. Kessler were actually much more intelligent after the treatment than they were when they first entered the hospital.

The reduction in bizarre and incongruent thinking, the better attention of the patients to the test and their increased social awareness were, Dr. Kessler believes, important in producing the much better mental test scores.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1948

GENERAL SCIENCE

A.M.A. Says Health Plan Is Not Satisfactory

► THE American Medical Association's answer to the Federal Security Administration's ten-year program for the nation's health is that the "prescription" written by President Truman and F. S. Administrator Oscar Ewing would, if taken by the United States, prove more nauseating than curative (*See SNL*, Sept. 11).

Calling the statistics on which the 10-year plan is based "the same old figures that the proponents of government medicine have been launching at periodic intervals for the last 20 or 30 years," the editor of the *JOURNAL OF THE A.M.A.* (Sept. 25) states, in part, as follows:

"The amount of medical care that is given to most people of the world under their compulsory sickness insurance plans would never satisfy the people of the United States. The inevitable faults of these systems, which have been emphasized to the American physicians and to the American people for a good many years, are now coming vividly to light. Great Britain embarked in its new National Health Act on July 5. People in England may now go to the doctor without calculating the cost of the service. They may be supplied with spectacles and teeth without additional costs. They may have consultants and beds in hospitals without reference to individual payments for services rendered. That is what the National Health Act of Great Britain promised them. Do you think that they get it? No, indeed! They queue up to see the doctors formerly they could have seen by appointment. The doctors write formulas and prescriptions and reports many hours in advance of the time when they see the patients because otherwise they would never have time to see the patients. Many a physician is already satisfied that he cannot work under the Act. The unfortunate public have no way of knowing whether or not what they get is good medical service or something to make them think that they are being given attention.

"The greatest folly in the world is the manner in which Great Britain embarked on a nationwide health service without hospitals, doctors, nurses, drugs or money to supply what they promised, and an even greater folly would be the attempt to offer a similar service in the United States and to gulp the entire medical problem of the nation in a single swallow. Should the United States accept the prescription by President Truman and his consultant, Mr. Ewing, it would likely discover that the prescription had little of curative value and a great deal of the ultimate effect of ipecac or apomorphine (these, Mr. Ewing, are classified by the books on drugs as emetics)."

Science News Letter, October 2, 1948

DENTISTRY

Overeating Harms Teeth

► **OVEREATING** is harmful to your teeth as well as to your figure, Dr. John H. Greene of Philadelphia warned the American Dental Association meeting in Chicago.

The perpetual muncher, who must have a midnight snack, or candy all day long, will usually have the most dental troubles, he pointed out.

Sweet desserts are also bad for you unless they are fruit or raw food, he said, because they reawaken your appetite. Raw foods, on the other hand, are good for you because they clean the surface of your teeth.

We know what is good for us, Dr. Greene asserted, but we continue eating only what we like. "We are too indolent to change or add to our good list unless sickness makes it imperative," he declared.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1948

Caries Despite Vitamins

► **THE POPULAR BELIEF** that a deficiency of minerals and vitamins in the diet will lead to tooth decay was debunked at the same meeting by Dr. Hamilton B. G. Robinson, of the Ohio State University College of Dentistry.

"It can be agreed that certain minerals

are important for formation of sound teeth but there is no clearcut scientific evidence that those minerals are necessary to prevent disease in mature teeth," he declared.

He termed misleading those studies that tried to show that decay is hastened by certain diseases or deficiencies. The investigators overlooked the fact that individuals who are of comparable age, race, region of residence and social status have the same tooth decay problems, he charged.

Dr. Robinson admitted the value of vitamin treatment in deficiency diseases such as scurvy and rickets, but vitamins as a weapon against dental disease he termed a case of firing "broadsides at an unseen target."

Science News Letter, October 2, 1948

ASTRONOMY

Comet Ashbrook Probably Old Periodic Comet

► **FAINT COMET ASHBROOK**, 12th magnitude when found August 26 in the constellation of Aquarius, the water carrier, is probably an old periodic comet following a new path. (*See SNL*, Sept. 18).

It passed quite close to the planet Jupiter—within about 28,000,000 miles of it—in 1945, preliminary calculations by Dr. Leland E. Cunningham of Students' Observatory, University of California, show. At that time its orbit must have been considerably changed, he points out, which would account for failure to discover it earlier.

Further observations are needed before this comet can be definitely identified with Barnard's, Holmes' or other lost periodic comets.

"If the present orbit is approximately correct," Dr. Cunningham stated, "and if the comet does not fade unusually fast, it should be visible throughout its orbit."

Science News Letter, October 2, 1948



Plastic Coasters and Tiles

EMBED REAL FLOWERS in NEW Magic PLASTIC

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