

in patients in catatonic excitement, when the temperature mounts rapidly and in a few minutes may go as high as 110 degrees. These cases usually die.

This patient was saved by rapid action on the part of the physicians. In addition to treatment with antibiotics, barbiturates and large doses of vitamins, he was given adrenal cortical extract. Practically continuous alcohol sponge baths were given him. Electric shock treatment was tried.

Gradually the temperature went down, the excitement subsided and blood pressure and chemistry returned to normal. The patient recovered with no memory of what he had been through.

The other patient, after repeated suicide threats, suddenly went wild on his birthday and threw himself about his room. He had to be restrained from mutilating himself. Then he stuck out his tongue and clamped his teeth down on it and held his breath. During one such spell of breath holding, his heart stopped beating.

Artificial respiration and injection of stimulants failed to restore him. He was dead.

The physicians' full report on these two patients is contained in the current *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY* (Sept.).

Science News Letter, September 30, 1950

AERONAUTICS

Plane Wings without Rivets From New Forging Process

► RIVET-LESS wings for airplanes, constructed by a new forging process that saves cost, time and metal in the manufacture of wing panels, were revealed in Dayton, Ohio, at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The process was developed by the Air Materiel Command's Industrial Planning Division, the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Burbank, Calif., and the Wyman-

Gordon Company, Worcester, Mass. It utilizes specially designed dies and a vertical hydraulic press to forge one-eighth inch thick integrally-stiffened wing skins, thus eliminating the need for riveted reinforcements.

With present wings, there may be up to 15,000 rivets in a wing surface. Cost of both rivets and installation is wiped out by the new forging method. There is also a great saving in the amount of aluminum required for fabrication when it is machined out of solid stock. In the old process a large percentage of the aluminum ends up as trimmings and chips which must be returned to manufacturers for reuse.

The new rivetless panels are being manufactured in the plant of the Wyman-Gordon Company. A German scientist, Karl Braeuninger, assigned to the Air Force, is in charge of the project.

Science News Letter, September 30, 1950

AGRICULTURE

Giant Fruits Aid Plant Genetic Study

► SCIENTISTS at Geneva, N. Y., like nothing better than to open their mail and find apples the size of grapefruit or grapes which look like small plums.

As fall's harvest season approached, Dr. John Einset of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station sent out a call for such giant fruit, or "sports" as they are called. If you find an elephantine apple or a king-sized grape, you can aid in a long-range study of uncommon plant genetics.

Send the fruit to the Geneva station for examination, and carefully mark the tree or vine where you found it. Describe the fruit briefly and give the name and address of the grower on the postcard to the experiment station.

True apple "sports" are often twice normal size, flatter and irregular in outline.

The tree on which they grow usually has thick twigs and a flat, bushy shape. Grape vines with unusual ambition sometimes turn out grapes twice the size of those on a neighboring vine. The reason is an unusual combination of the tiny bodies in the germ cells called chromosomes. These determine hereditary characteristics in plants and animals alike.

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