

by Dr. Clive M. McCay of Cornell University's animal nutrition laboratory at the conference on nutrition at Yale University.

From animal studies also comes the suggestion that powdered brewer's yeast and the pulp left from making tomato and citrus juices might help many older persons suffering from habitual constipation.

Bread, important in the diets of older people as well as children and those who carry lunches, should be made more nourishing. It should also be studied, Dr. McCay declared, with the view of helping prevent the widespread affliction of constipation.

About four percent of the calories consumed by the average American consists of alcoholic beverages, Dr. McCay reported, adding that he found it hard to believe his own figures on this.

The coffee-drinking white rats in his

laboratory lived all their lives with coffee, made fresh each day, as the only fluid they drank. Their lives were not shortened, and in one experiment the females seemed to have a "significantly lengthened" lifespan.

Rats have also been induced to drink about one-fifth of their body weight in water per day for a whole lifetime. This would be comparable to the drinking of about 15 quarts of water daily by a man. Such copious drinking neither shortened nor lengthened the life of the rats.

Old people themselves, whether living at home or in homes for the aged or mental institutions, can help scientists learn much about how they should eat, Dr. McCay said. The oldsters, he thinks, would gladly serve as human guinea pigs, because it would relieve their boredom if for no other reason.

Science News Letter, November 18, 1950

tion of Nature will be held for the first time in the Western Hemisphere on the invitation of the government of Venezuela at Caracas.

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Helicopter service carrying mail between the roof of a Chicago postoffice and the city's principal airport has now completed what is pronounced a successful year.

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CONSERVATION

Acts to Protect Wildlife

International Union for the Protection of Nature has just held biennial general assembly at Brussels. Union's commission will aid projects for education.

► PROTECTING birds, animals, plants and their living environment, as well as other renewable natural resources, in widely separated areas of the world is one of the prime objectives of the International Union for the Protection of Nature, whose biennial general assembly at Brussels has just been attended by leading American experts, along with delegates and observers from 34 countries.

The union's commission on conservation education to be headed by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute, will aid proposed school projects for conservation education in France, Italy, India, the Belgian Congo,

and the Kingdom of Tonga in the Pacific.

Dr. Harold J. Coolidge, the U. S. vice president of the Union and executive secretary of the Pacific Science Board of the National Research Council, was a senior delegate in the American group that attended the conference. Others were Richard Westwood, president of the American Nature Association, L. A. Walford of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Victor Cahalane of the U. S. National Park Service, Cornelius Crane of Friends of the Land, H. W. Glassen of the Michigan Department of Conservation.

In 1952 the next international assembly of the International Union for the Protec-

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