

ENDOCRINOLOGY

Strontium Strengthens Over-Porous Bones

► STRONTIUM, recently reported helpful in lime for soil, also helps the liming treatment of abnormally porous bones in humans. Its value when given with calcium to remineralize the bones in 10 patients was reported by Drs. Anne C. Carter and Ephraim Shorr of Cornell University Medical College and the New York Hospital, New York, at the meeting of the Endocrine Society in Chicago.

No toxic effects were seen and patients were relieved of pain and other symptoms and able to resume activity at a rate depending on the stored calcium and strontium.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952

ENDOCRINOLOGY

Fat But Little Sweets In Anti-Arthritis Diet

► IT WILL be plenty of fat but not much sweet or starchy food in the diets of rheumatoid arthritis patients, if doctors follow the lead of research reported by scientists of the Highland Alameda County Hospital, Oakland, Calif., at the meeting of the Endocrine Society in Chicago.

Patients on such a diet showed significant improvement in their rheumatic symptoms. But when the starch and sugar content of the diet was increased, pain and other symptoms tended to return.

ACTH and cortisone were more effective, with fewer side effects, when given to patients on this high fat, low carbohydrate diet. Minerals and vitamins were given as supplement to the diet.

The research was conducted by Drs. John W. Partridge, Lenore Boling and Laurence W. Kinsell and Miss Florence Olson and Miss Eleanor Kipp.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952

METEOROLOGY

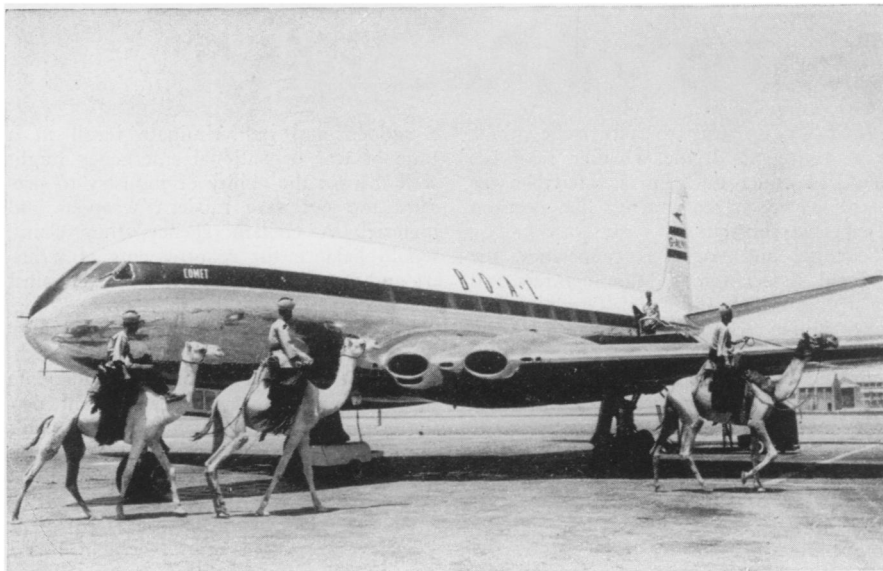
Flood Crest Forecasts Cut Losses in Half

► ADEQUATE AND timely forecasts of flood crests during the recent great Mississippi River flood kept losses down to half as much as they might have been.

William Hiatt, chief of Hydrologic Services Division of the Weather Bureau, told a meeting of the D. C. branch of the American Meteorological Society in Washington that in a 150-mile stretch of the river, where crests forecasts were made about two weeks in advance, property damage of about \$1,400,000 was suffered. However, residents figured that the forecasts enabled them to save property worth about \$1,450,000 from the flood.

If this ratio can be applied to the rest of the flood area millions of dollars were saved.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952



CAMELS AND COMETS—Two modes of transportation, camels and jet airliners, present a striking contrast on a Khartoum, Sudan, landing field. The four-engine jet De Havilland Comet shown here is being tested before making a 500 m.p.h. run between Johannesburg, South Africa, and London.

PSYCHOLOGY

Can't Talk and Listen Both

► DESPITE WHAT clubwomen may think, you cannot talk and listen at the same time.

A man in a busy message center where he must receive calls or answer questions coming at him from a number of loudspeakers, telephones or radios or directly may not be able to attend to any of them properly even though one voice does not mask out another.

Confusion is especially likely when he cannot finish the answer to one question before another question arrives. It is not possible to speak and listen at the same time and do both accurately.

This was shown clearly by an experiment conducted by Dr. D. E. Broadbent at the Medical Research Council, Cambridge, England. Navy men there were observed trying to answer questions in the kind of modern bedlam that might occur in a modern communications system. The research was reported in the *JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY* (April).

The men were required to give verbal answers to simple questions which came to them over a loudspeaker. When a short silence was interspersed between questions and answers, the answers given were 98% correct. But when, occasionally, a second question came before the answer to the first was completed, the accuracy dropped. Only 90% of the interrupted answers were completed correctly and only 80% of the interrupting questions were understood well enough to receive correct answers. When

a mistake was made in an answer, that interfered more with understanding of the following question than did a correct answer.

When the answer to every question was overlapped by the next question, the accuracy dropped to 70%. And the impairment got worse with later questions.

The "carrier" phrases of telephone procedure such as "Hello" and "This is," although they may seem superfluous, really do serve a useful purpose, it was found. They increase the time needed to transmit each message, but they reduce the interference between speaking and listening.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952

INVENTION

Wedge-Like Device Protects Exposed Pie Edges

► THE STALE or dried edge of a pie which has already been cut and then left standing is done away with by an invention for which James A. Harrell, Portland, Ore., received patent number 2,598,789.

The pie holder consists of two flat pieces joined at one end by a hinge. The hinge rests vertically at the center of the pie plate. At the other ends of the pieces are grooves which fit over the pie plate edge. After the pie has been cut, the flat pieces rest against the exposed pie edges.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952