

Dr. Samuel J. Meer of Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

The authoritarian individual, Dr. Meer explained, thinks in terms of blacks and whites with no middle ground. He cannot stand mixed emotions toward his parents. Like Hitler, he believes that "those who are not with me are against me." Aggression in dreams is mostly directed toward strangers and other peoples, not to family, friends, and acquaintances. Friendliness is only for the individual's own set.

The dictator personality is likely to over-idealize the virtues of his own group and over-emphasize the wickedness of all others.

Persons with a democratic viewpoint do not make such a distinction between "our gang" and outsiders. Aggression and friendliness in dreams is handed out impartially to both.

Dr. Meer based his conclusions on a study of the dreams of a group of college students who had been rated on their authoritarian attitudes.

Science News Letter, September 6, 1952



**TRANSISTOR RECEIVER**—Experimental model of a transistor receiver is demonstrated by Dorman D. Israel, executive vice-president of Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corporation, who predicts that in less than three years mass production of "shirt-pocket" radios will make this prototype a "grand-daddy." Transistors, made with a tiny disk of germanium, can replace vacuum tubes for many purposes.

ENGINEERING

**Rubberized Material May Stretch Road Life**

➤ RUBBERIZED ROAD materials being developed at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., may be the engineers' answer to stretching the life of heavily traveled highways that become quickly worn under the normal load of cars, trucks and buses.

Research engineers believe that adding rubber to the ordinary bituminous road-surfacing material should make the pavement more rugged. The scientists are testing their theory in the University's highway laboratory where a "fatigue" machine treats samples of rubberized road-surfacing materials just as trailer trucks would.

Other machines and tests "age" the samples and subject them to the simulated heat of a blazing summer sun and of frigid winter temperatures.

Administered by the Kentucky Research Foundation under a grant from the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, the project currently is being carried on by the University's Engineering Experiment Station.

Science News Letter, September 6, 1952

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MARINE BIOLOGY

**Claim Long Proboscis an Elephant Seal Advantage**

➤ IT IS an advantage to an elephant seal to be a Jimmy Durante of the species, because a long proboscis gives a better station in seal society.

Elephant seals, once almost extinct, are being sighted in increasing numbers on certain islands off the coast of southern and Baja California.

The place of the male elephant seal in his society is determined by his ability to dominate other males. This is particularly true during the breeding season. His position is often won and maintained largely by the amount of noise he can make. Thus his "bark," actually more of a loud snort, is often as important as his bite.

The amount of noise a seal can make depends upon the length of his snout, Dr. George A. Bartholomew, assistant professor of zoology at the University of California at Los Angeles, has found. The longer the snout, which is often a foot or more, the louder the snort. Apparently the elongated proboscis has no other use.

The elephant seal also snores to amuse himself, Dr. Bartholomew has found. While partly submerged in an isolated tide pool, he may snore in a manner that suggests singing in a bathtub. He apparently enjoys the resonant effect of his "natural bathtub" just as a human being does that of his tub or shower.

Science News Letter, September 6, 1952



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