

## GEOLOGY

# Rush on Uranium Maps

► URANIUM FEVER is causing healthier sales of Government geologic and topographic maps.

More maps of all kinds have been sold during January and February of this year than during the same period last year, and the U. S. Geological Survey reports that sales have been steadily rising. If the pace continues, it is expected that there will be at least a 20% increase in total distribution over the last previous record of 2,200,000 maps in 1954.

Indicative of the current map rush is the fact that the Survey people have a "best-seller" on their hands. A little over a month ago, 10,000 copies of MF 16, Mineral Investigations Field Studies of the Colorado Plateau, were published.

A check of the distribution centers for the Survey, at Washington, D. C., and Denver, Colo., shows that fewer than 3,000 copies of MF 16 remain in stock.

This rapid depletion in little more than a

month is highly unusual for any map, distributors say.

Other maps have enjoyed similar popularity. Particularly the radioactivity maps that show where significant differences in radioactivity found by airborne survey occur over land.

Even topographical quadrangle maps, familiar to hunters, fishermen, surveyors and others, the maps responsible for more than 90% of the Survey's yearly sales, have been in increasing demand. These maps show the physical and cultural features of the land and are useful for the uranium hunter who uses them in his hunt for radioactive minerals much as the animal hunter does to keep from getting lost.

The U. S. Geological Survey, which is responsible for the nation's official geologic and topographic maps, sells the maps at prices ranging generally from 20 cents for the topographic maps to \$2.50 for its geologic map of the entire United States.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1955

## NUTRITION

# Lysine-Fortified Milk

► UNDERWEIGHT BABIES with poor appetite will eat better and gain weight when their milk is fortified with lysine. This chemical is one of the essential amino acids and a building block of protein.

The good effects of adding this chemical to the underweight baby's food were reported by Drs. Anthony A. Albanese, Reginald A. Higgons, Gertrude M. Hyde and Louise Orto of St. Luke's Hospital, New York, in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* (March-April).

Fifteen babies aged one to 25 months were given the lysine supplement in the form of a tasteless white powder called Lactofort by its manufacturers, White Laboratories, Inc., of Kenilworth, N. J. Lactofort also contains vitamins, iron and calcium.

The babies were getting standard fresh or evaporated milk formulas and other foods usually prescribed by New York pediatricians for babies of their ages. The lysine supplement was given for three to four weeks preceded and followed by equal periods without it as control.

Five of the babies showed marked improvement. Their appetites picked up and they gained weight. Six did not gain weight spectacularly, but chemical tests showed they were gaining strength and sturdiness. The remaining four showed no measurable improvement, but they had already been growing at a rate well above the average.

The lysine-fortified diets apparently are effective only in children who are not getting adequate nourishment from their food, Dr. Albanese pointed out.

The idea of adding lysine to the babies' diet came from earlier studies by Dr. Albanese and others showing that young infants need about twice as much of this in relation to another amino acid as young adults.

Dr. Albanese suggests that the nutritional value of many infant foods, including cow's milk, can be substantially improved by adding a little lysine. Failure to get enough of this amino acid on ordinary formulas may be what makes the baby's appetite poor. Poor appetite leads to eating less, so the amount of lysine consumed is further cut. Babies who are getting such protein foods as meat and egg in addition to their milk are getting more lysine, but some young babies seem to lack a digestive enzyme that would let them get the extra lysine out of the meat feeding.

For these the lysine supplement seems to be the answer. It also should be helpful for babies allergic to cow's milk. One such baby in the group studied was helped to better appetite and weight gain when the lysine was added to her milk substitute formula.

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## GENERAL SCIENCE

## National Academy Names Loyalty Group

► THE COMMITTEE of the National Academy of Sciences that will report to the White House on whether loyalty doubts should bar Government grants and contracts with scientists who are undertaking

unclassified research will be headed by Dr. J. A. Stratton, vice-president and provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Other committee members announced by Dr. Detlev Bronk, president of the Academy, are: Dr. Robert F. Bacher, California Institute of Technology physicist and former Atomic Energy Commissioner; Laird Bell, Chicago attorney who has been chairman of the University of Chicago's trustees; Dr. Wallace O. Fenn, University of Rochester School of Medicine physiologist; Dr. Robert F. Loeb, medical services director of New York Presbyterian Hospital; Dr. E. Bright Wilson, Harvard chemist, and President Henry M. Wriston of Brown University.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1955

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. 67 APRIL 9, 1955 NO. 15

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N. St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., NORTH 7-2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscription rates: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage.

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Printed in U. S. A. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at the special rate of postage provided for by Sec. 34.40, P. L. and R., 1948 Edition, paragraph (d) (act of February 28, 1925; 39 U. S. Code 283), authorized February 28, 1950. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index.



Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 1 E. 54th St., New York 22, Eldorado 5-5666, and 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Superior 7-6048.

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