

## PSYCHOLOGY

# Test Culture Differences

## ► WHAT IS a mouth for?

Your answer to questions like this is useful, a psychologist has found, in showing the values of the culture in which you live.

The psychologist made a study of the answers of children of three different cultures in Beirut, Lebanon, and in Omdurman, capital of Sudan. American children going to the American Community School in Beirut, and Lebanese and Sudanese children were questioned.

The greatest proportion of the children of all three groups said that the mouth is for eating, but they differed materially on other uses for the mouth.

A larger percentage of the Americans than of the other two groups said that the mouth is for talking. The Sudanese children were the only ones to say that the mouth is for drinking. Sudan is very hot and the people there consume a lot of water.

These cultural differences are reported by Dr. Wayne Dennis of Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N. Y., to the *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* (July), based on a study he made while visiting professor at the American University of Beirut.

The common picture of the American father is shared by the Lebanese, Dr. Dennis finds.

To both American children and Lebanese,

a father is for working and earning money for the family. To the Sudanese child, father is not just the person who brings home the money. He is also someone who cares for him and helps him.

Dogs and cats may be pets to be fondled or played with by the American child. But to both Lebanese and Sudanese they serve a useful purpose in guarding the house or catching mice.

Sand is to be played in to the American child; it is a building material to the Lebanese and Sudanese.

Wood is for building houses to the American child but not the child in Lebanon or Sudan where houses are always made of stone. To the Lebanese and Sudanese, wood is for making furniture.

Gold is for decoration to both Lebanese and Sudanese; it has economic value only to the American child. But in Lebanon, chocolate candies are commonly wrapped in gold foil. Many of the younger children said that gold is "to wrap candy in."

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

## TECHNOLOGY

## Plant Powered by Its Own By-Product

► A MODERN CHEMICAL plant to be built for Atlas Powder Company will need no outside source of fuel once operations have started.

After production begins in the new nitric acid and ammonium nitrate plant, the heat energy produced by burning ammonia as part of the production process will be channeled back into the operation to provide energy needed for reactions elsewhere in

the plant, D. J. Carroll Copps, senior vice president in charge of the company's explosives division, explained.

Mr. Copps said the plant will be the first "self-sustaining" plant of its type to be built in the United States.

The \$4,000,000 facilities are being constructed in Missouri by The Chemical and Industrial Corporation, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Science News Letter, August 3, 1957

## Questions

AGRICULTURE—What are some of the industrial uses for guar? see p. 70.

CHEMISTRY—How high a temperature has been produced by cyanogen-oxygen flames? see p. 67.

MEDICINE—What is the cause of the disease mucormycosis? see p. 68.

How is animal bone treated to transform it into anorganic bone? see p. 74.

PUBLIC HEALTH—What compound is being used to dissolve and extract the tars in cigarette smoke? see p. 69.

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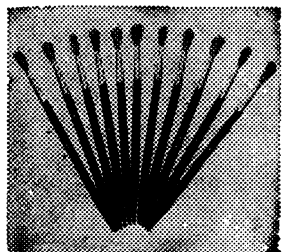
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