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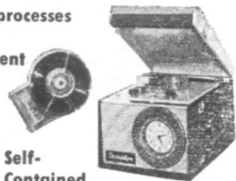
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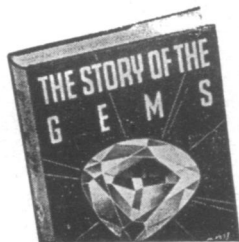
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ROCKETS AND MISSILES

Pentagon Reports Discoverer VI Down

THE DEPARTMENT of Defense reports that America's Discoverer VI satellite fell back to earth between 5 and 8 p.m. Oct. 20, one day later than scientists had estimated.

The Discoverer had completed its 965th pass, and no report was given as to where the vehicle may have come down.

The 1,700-pound Discoverer VI was launched Aug. 19 into a polar orbit. It carried a 300-pound reentry capsule which was not recovered.

The Smithsonian Astrophysical Laboratory at Cambridge, Mass., reports that Explorer IV fell two days later, on Oct. 22. Launched July 26, 1958, the 38.4-pound satellite carried experiments for measuring corpuscular radiation at several intensities and temperatures inside the satellite. (See p. 301.)

Science News Letter, November 7, 1959

MEDICINE

Hypnosis Loses Favor Of Some Researchers

HYPNOSIS is becoming less popular as a medical tool, due to the abuse and misuse of hypnotism by novices, Dr. Bernard B. Raginsky of Montreal, president of the special panel on clinical hypnosis of the Pan American Medical Association, reported.

Hypnosis is used much more in the U.S. and in South American countries than in Canada, he said, but many doctors who want to learn hypnosis do not want to learn the psychological aspects of its use.

However, it is very popular for childbirth and also certain phases of dentistry, and is a helpful tool when the doctor wants to reduce the patient's anxiety. This is particularly true in dentistry.

Also, hypnosis can be useful to the surgeon who wishes to keep the patient absolutely still or prevent him from coughing, Dr. Raginsky said. The novice, however, wants to use hypnosis in every case, often where it does not apply.

An Effective Tool

It can also be an effective tool where ordinary psychotherapy does not work. For instance, many times a patient is hiding something from himself, the Montreal scientist said. An example would be the pilot who does not want to admit that he caused a crash. This can be drawn out of a patient with the aid of hypnosis.

Contrary to some reports, a person will do things under hypnosis that he would not do ordinarily, Dr. Raginsky said. He reported how, during World War II, he induced a soldier, while under hypnosis, to attack his commanding officer.

"He almost slit the officer's throat, because I had convinced him that the officer was a Japanese soldier," Dr. Raginsky reported.

Delving into the field of space medicine, Dr. Raginsky said it had been suggested

that the seven astronauts be put under hypnosis for their space flights. Hypnosis will reduce the spaceman's metabolism without reducing his mental powers.

The Russians are preparing their astronauts for space flight by Pavlovian conditioning, he said. This is a simple type of learning for which the Russian physiologist, Pavlov, is famous.

It consists of associating a stimulus for which the body has an automatic response with another, neutral, stimulus. A famous example of this was the association of the sound of a bell with the sight or smell of food until a dog's mouth would water at the sound of a bell alone.

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