

CHEMISTRY

Lightweight Laminate From Plastic Aluminum

➤ A NEW TYPE of lightweight, high-strength laminate and a process for forming it into a variety of shapes has been developed at Bell Telephone Laboratories.

The laminate, two aluminum sheets bonded to a solid polyethylene core, is intended for telephone equipment housing. It may be useful for automobile body parts and luggage.

The laminate uses no adhesive between its component layers. This new material can be welded, as well as adhesively bonded to many other substances.

• Science News Letter, 85:271 April 25, 1964

PSYCHOLOGY

Women Suicides Increase Due to Social Pressures

➤ SUICIDE RATES among women are expected to rise, as more women enter the labor force.

This is one of the predictions made with a new theory which holds that suicide rates among men and women are determined by the amount of conflict they encounter in their various social roles.

Each individual in a society occupies several roles. For example, he can be a father, a barber, a husband, and an alderman at the same time.

To maintain stable relationships with other people, such a man must conform to the rights and duties which come with being a father, barber, husband and alderman. Each of these roles conflicts somewhat with the others. The greater the conflict, the higher the suicide rate. Full-time housewives are said to encounter less conflict than women who function as both wives and wage-earners.

Dr. Jack P. Gibbs, sociology professor at the University of Texas, and Dr. Walter T. Martin, sociology professor at the University of Oregon, have set up and tested the first method for measuring role conflicts in a complex society.

They assumed that combinations of roles that occur most often in a society provide the least conflict.

Being a barber and a husband conflicts less in our society than being a woman airline pilot and a wife.

The tests indicate that racial differences in suicide rates are due to sociological rather than biological differences. The Negro suicide rate in the United States is expected to rise as the people's social positions change more rapidly than other roles they are expected to fill.

In their book, "Status Integration and Suicide" (University of Oregon Books, \$8.00), the two sociologists explain their tests measuring suicide differences by occupation, age, sex, race, marital status, and geographic location in the U.S. and some foreign countries. The resulting predictions are more than twice as accurate as could be expected by chance, they said.

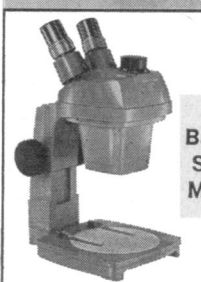
In this theory suicide is related to the degree of social pressure and a method of analyzing the amount of social stress in a society is presented.

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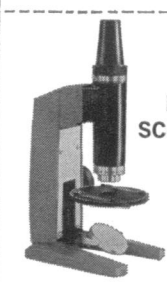
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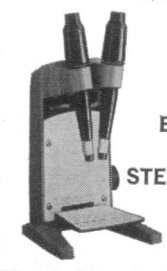
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