

• SCIENCE SHORTS •

A miscellany of happenings and information in various fields the world over

More than 275 military nurses are currently serving in Viet Nam.

An estimated 14 million persons in the United States, or seven per cent of the population have or have had an ulcer.

The quality of the West German diet is steadily on the rise with use of such items as meat and fruit increasing and bread and potatoes decreasing.

A proposal to build a canal linking Lake Erie and the Ohio River is before Congress for the seventh time in 55 years.

A new world of metalworking called explosive forming—the science of making explosives do the work of shaping large pieces of metal plate—is growing to meet the needs of the space program for larger precision-built vehicles.

Each year 400,000 book titles are produced.

Reduced egg supplies and increased demands for high protein foods have boosted egg prices to the highest level in recent years.

Practically all types of pavement can be rendered skid-resistant by an application of asphalt and nonpolishing stone aggregate.

The "Pythagore," world's first tanker built especially for oceanic transport of ethylene, sailed from the U.S. for Algeria with 800,000 pounds of liquid ethylene.

Phenethylbiguanide (DBI) a drug given orally to lower the blood sugar of diabetics, fails to do the same in normal persons because the liver apparently increases the sugar supply to compensate for that removed by the DBI.

New York State's 1965 birth rate of 19.0 per 1,000 persons was the lowest in 20 years.

The township of Helsinki, Finland, has installed a jet aircraft engine as a reserve source of electrical power.

Social Security benefits totalling \$16.6 billion were paid in fiscal 1965, \$788 million more than in the previous years.

Free radicals—chemicals species that possess one or more unpaired electrons are of considerable importance to scientists conducting studies of the chemistry of the upper atmosphere and of combustion phenomena.

Total enrollment for master's and higher degrees in the fall of 1964 was 478,000.

At Rockhound State Park in New Mexico the public is encouraged to take minerals and stones such as perlite, blue opal and amethyst as souvenirs.

Bacteria on dishes washed in a dishwasher are killed when the temperature of the incoming wash water is 140 degrees F.

More than 43,000 dehydrated meals, scheduled to replace the present B-ration, are being served to soldiers in Viet Nam in the first large-scale field test.

The pleasant and unpleasant things which happen to a person when he drinks, happen because alcohol anesthetizes the brain.

Drifting of sprayed herbicides can be considerably reduced by adding a small amount of a free-flying, water-soluble powder which can be used with spray equipment.

Nickel-cadmium batteries, invented more than 50 years ago, did not gain importance until the Space Age.

With the aid of TV and a whistle sound, radiologists are able to direct prenatal transfusions in unborn babies afflicted with the possibly fatal disease caused by the blood incompatibility of RH-negative mothers.

A portable tricolored beacon has been developed to give pilots landing in remote areas at night the same assistance provided by landing lights at airports.

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MEDICINE

Illicit LSD Traffic Hurts Research Efforts

► THE BLACK MARKET in LSD will soon have its effects on scientists. Because of increasing illicit use of the highly dangerous hallucinatory drug, research with LSD is going to be "very difficult," Dr. Ralph Banay, medical director of the Civic Center Clinic, New York, told SCIENCE SERVICE.

Much stronger controls will probably be instituted by the Government over experiments with LSD (d-lysergic acid diethylamide), he said.

Dr. Banay's expectations were echoed by E. H. Wilkins, director, Food and Drug Administration's New York field station. He said that the FDA in Washington is planning a review of current research. Experiments now in progress with LSD number about 50 or 60 across the country.

Moreover, now that Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Inc., the only legal distributor of LSD in the United States, has decided to stop distribution of the drug, investigators now riding on the Sandoz permit will have to obtain their own from the FDA, said Mr. Wilkins.

There has been talk within the organization about cutting off some of the projects already in progress. Illicit sources of LSD include smuggling, illegal production, and diversion of the drug from research projects into unauthorized hands. Of these, the FDA can best control the scientific investigators, said Mr. Wilkins. The FDA has been suspicious of some projects.

As for illegal production, the FDA is planning to inspect chemical firms to find out how LSD ingredients are being distributed and how reputable the people are who buy them. Since LSD can be manufactured so easily, it is important to keep track of the ergotamine derivatives that go into its production.

Both Dr. Banay and Mr. Wilkins participated in a conference called by Kings County District Attorney Aaron Koota to discuss control of New York's illicit LSD traffic.

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