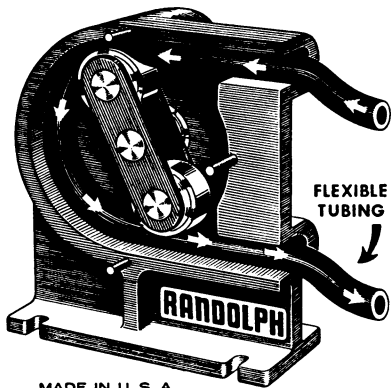


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## Develop A Powerful Memory?

A noted publisher in Chicago reports there is a simple technique for acquiring a powerful memory which can pay you real dividends in both business and social advancement and works like magic to give you added poise, necessary self-confidence and greater popularity.

According to this publisher, many people do not realize how much they could influence others simply by remembering accurately everything they see, hear, or read. Whether in business, at social functions or even in casual conversations with new acquaintances, there are ways in which you can dominate each situation by your ability to remember.

To acquaint the readers of this publication with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering anything you choose to remember, the publishers have printed full details of their self-training method in a new booklet, "Adventures in Memory," which will be mailed free to anyone who requests it. No obligation. Simply send your name, address and zip code to: Memory Studies, 835 Diversey Parkway, Dept. 540-01D, Chicago, Ill. 60614. A postcard will do. (Adv.)

540/science news/vol. 92/2 december 1967

# from abroad

## FROM AUSTRALIA

### Creating an Inland Sea In the Central Desert

A \$100 million scheme to refill Lake Eyre in Central Australia with seawater, creating a permanent inland sea, is being investigated by the South Australian Government.

The State Lands and Mines Department has assisted in preparing detailed maps for an investigation being led by Ian B. Kiddle, an instructor of engineering diploma students in Melbourne.

Kiddle visited the Lake Eyre area in 1965 and 1966. This year he is surveying an area from Port Augusta to the Lake—a possible canal route.

Early in 1950 Lake Eyre was filled by natural rainfall in its catchment areas.

Arguments have since been raised as to what effect this has had on the climate of Australia.

Kiddle, and others, believe that a filled Lake Eyre induces a lowering in air temperature in the inland and increases precipitation in areas adjacent to the lake, and in the Australian Alps to the east.

"Saltwater to fill the Lake could be brought from near Port Augusta in Spencers Gulf, through an open channel to the southern end of Lake Torrens," Kiddle says.

"There the water would have to be lifted 120 feet by pumps into Lake Torrens. The water would then flow north, using the existing lake of 2,400 square miles as its own channels.

"At the northern end of Lake Torrens a channel could be cut through the low hills separating the catchments of Lake Torrens and Lake Eyre."

The water would flow naturally by gravity into the Lake Eyre basin of 3,700 square miles.

Kiddle says one of the major benefits of the scheme could be desalination and irrigation of the Flinders Ranges. A very preliminary estimate placed the cost at \$100 million.

This includes the production of fresh water from salt at cost considerably lower than anywhere else in the world.

Despite problems of water and other supplies, the survey teams achieved enough in 1965 and 1966 to make them decide on a larger and longer expedition by two parties this year.

A full preliminary survey of the area has to be made in detail. The area is approximately 50 miles wide and 400 miles long.

W. A. Scholes

## FROM BRITAIN

### Regulating Exotic Pets

Britain, thanks to strict quarantine regulations, is one of the few countries where a child can be bitten by a strange dog without fear of rabies.

But British taste in pets is tending toward more exotic beasts than the noble dog and the cat that walks by its lone, including monkeys, skunks and opossums. Some can carry diseases fatal to humans.

Stronger regulation of these exotics is being urged by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association. "None of these animals go through quarantine, and they are a potential danger," says president C. E. Woodrow.

All the experts agree in condemning the monkey, which when grown, can inflict a devastating bite. It can also carry virus B, a brain disease which is a killer when contracted by man. Only two persons out of the 20 who have contracted it in recent years have survived.

J. F. Hodgman, former director of the British research station for small animals, says that monkeys for research are brought into the country under license. "I am disturbed about monkeys which in four days can be in pet shops or people's homes."

A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman says that with the increasing number of exotic pets coming into Britain, the Ministry is drawing up further regulations to control their import.

"We already have a pretty tight control over most things," he points out. All members of the parrot family are banned unless a license is issued for their use in medical research, in zoos or as private pets. None are allowed in for commercial purposes. The import of muskrats and gray squirrels is controlled in the same way.

The new regulations would either take this form or that adopted for the import of dogs and cats—the quarantine system.

F. C. Livingstone

### Contract Let for 150-Inch 'Scope

The Science Research Council has placed a \$651,700 contract with Owens-Illinois of Toledo, Ohio, for the 15-ton mirror blank for the 150-inch Anglo-Australian telescope to be constructed in New South Wales.

That contract, as well as similar ones for new 'scopes in southern France and Chile, call for vitreous ceramic unaffected by temperature.