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Loughlin suggests the addition of uranium units to existing vanadium plants or the building of new mills for the extraction of both vanadium and uranium. Of late years uranium has been mined only by gouging out small quantities to sell to manufacturers of radium belts and radio-active waters.

Although warning that his estimate is only a guess, Dr. Loughlin says he

believes that radium could be extracted from these ores at a cost of \$50 a milligram.

It is expected that the House Committee will probably report favorably the Kelly bill. Representative Kelly believes that the Belgian monopoly on radium should be broken. The price of radium from the Belgian Congo is now about \$60,000 per gram.

Science News Letter, January 17, 1931

NUTRITION

More Food Value in Sweet Than in Irish Potato

SWEET potatoes are of higher food value than white potatoes, contrary to common belief.

The protein of the sweet potato, ipomoein, is richer in the nutritionally-essential amino-acids that compose proteins than that obtained from the white variety. This has been shown in Washington by Dr. D. Breese Jones and his collaborators in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Proteins, those complex compounds of nitrogen, are necessary constituents of any diet. Ordinarily we obtain our greatest amounts of these from meat, eggs or milk. Potatoes and sweet potatoes are more important as sources of starch or fuel-energy-giving material, as are also the cereal foods.

Potatoes of both kinds, however, contain proteins that are superior in nutritional quality to those of corn and white bread. They contain a greater proportion of the essential building materials for human nutrition.

The sweet potato has a further advantage, Dr. Jones finds. He has isolated and studied protein from seven or eight varieties. Not all of the nitrogen in white potato is due to protein, but to other substances of less food value. These are not found in the sweet potato.

The sweet potato is also very satisfactory in regard to its content of the essential vitamins. The common potato contains less vitamin A. Thus the sweet potato has much to recommend it as a balanced food.

The potato has been claimed by Dr. M. Hindhede of Denmark as the perfect food. The sweet potato is largely unknown in Europe though it was probably introduced there a hundred years before the common "spud."

It is even mentioned in Shakespeare. It looks as if the Danish enthusiast might have to transfer his attention now to the all-American product.

Sweet potato flour can be added to wheat flour in making bread, with satisfactory results. A process has also been worked out by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils for making syrup from sweet potatoes.

Sweet potatoes form one of the chief vegetable foods in the southern states. The Department of Agriculture suggests that a larger percentage of the crop than at present might be fed to farm animals as it constitutes a cheaper and more productive source of carbohydrate, or fuel-energy material than corn as a supplement to such protein concentrate feeds as cottonseed, peanut and soybean meals.

Science News Letter, January 17, 1931

BIOLOGY

Embalmed Gorillas Secured for New York

SEVERAL embalmed bodies of full-grown gorillas, including one specimen of the extremely rare mountain gorilla of the Kivu region, are now available for anatomical study by scientists of Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History. Announcement of this acquisition, rarest prize known to anatomical science, was made in Cleveland by Dr. William K. Gregory, speaking before the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

Science News Letter, January 17, 1931

Fossil leaves with autumn coloring have been found in Oregon, the coloring being due to iron oxide.