

dence or occupation that brings happiness and contentment.

In clinics in the South and West, where patients came from small towns and rural communities, treatment is followed by better results than in large clinics in New York City, Dr. Russ pointed out. He explained this on the ground that the city patients are strikingly alike in their physical and emotional make-up. It is these factors and the environment in which they live that predisposes them to chronic peptic ulcer and is responsible for the poor results of treatment, he thought.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

MEDICINE

Man Lived 38 Years With Broken Spine

A MAN who lived for 38 years after having had his spine broken has just been reported by Douglas Green, a physician of Sheffield, England, to the *Lancet*, British Medical journal. Two years is generally considered the longest a person can be expected to live after such an injury, Mr. Green pointed out.

The patient was a telephone linesman who fell from a high telephone pole and broke his spine in 1892, when he was 21 years old. After a stay in the hospital, he was sent home and continued to live until he died of kidney trouble, just after his sixtieth birthday this year. Both legs and the lower abdominal muscles were paralyzed as a result of the injury and the patient had been forced to live in a spinal carriage.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

PSYCHOLOGY

Food is Used as Lure To Train the Feebleminded

FOOD may be the way to a man's heart but it is also the best incentive for training children whose mental processes are below par, it appears from studies by Cecilia G. Aldrich of the Vineland, N. J., Training School. Miss Aldrich reported to the meeting of the American Association for the Study of the Feebleminded the progress of her studies on the trainability of those mentally deficient children who fall into the idiot classification.

Lowest in Scale

These children come lowest in the scale of mental development, having mental ages of from one and one-half to about three years. Miss Aldrich believes that these children may be taught to contribute to the upkeep of the institutions that house them, instead of being completely dependent burdens. With this view she proceeded to investigate methods that might be used in training these children, and the extent to which they could be trained.

The problem-solving ability was tested along lines similar to those used in experiments with apes. The child was placed alone in a room with a lure hanging overhead out of his reach. Boxes were in the room which he could pile up and stand upon to get the lure. His method of approaching the prob-

lem, as well as his success were observed by the investigator who was concealed outside the room.

When the lure was a banana, the children showed more initiative and were more successful than when the lure was a ball. Addition of a cookie to the ball increased the initiative and degree of success somewhat.

The experiment also revealed personality differences of importance, Miss Aldrich found. Some of the children made no attempt to solve the problem until the investigator was out of the room and they were alone. Others whimpered and cried when left alone and made no progress until the investigator returned. Then their progress depended on her encouragement.

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MEDICINE

Multiple Sclerosis Treatment By Electricity Is Hopeful

REMARKABLE results from high frequency electric currents in the treatment of the hopeless condition known as multiple sclerosis, or creeping paralysis, were described by Dr. William H. Schmidt of Jefferson Medical College at the meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in Philadelphia. Dr. Schmidt and his associate, Dr. Benjamin Weiss of Jefferson Medical College, said they could not call their method a cure for creeping paralysis, but they are very hopeful. Every case treated has improved and some have recovered completely.

This disabling disease, for which no cure has yet been found, is characterized by remissions of symptoms, and Dr. Schmidt said they could not be sure whether their patients had really recovered or were only having natural remissions. An encouraging feature is that the improvement has continued after the treatment has been stopped. The treatment, which is the same that has been successful in treating cases of paresis, produces a high fever in the patient. The theory is that this fever stimulates the natural defensive mechanism of the body to overcome the disease, Dr. Schmidt said.

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