

# SCIENCE TODAY

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**Harcourt, Brace and Company**  
383 Madison Ave., New York

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appointing in the past, the two doctors concluded from their tests that from a correct appreciation of colloidal states of the patients' nervous systems better treatment of serious mental diseases can be developed.

In the cases of schizophrenia or dementia praecox and the characteristic stupor of catatonia, the colloids of the brain are in a state of over-dispersion, it was concluded. In manic-depressive psychoses and a newly recognized state of benign stupor, the colloids are agglomerated.

Present methods of treating insanity will be aided and not replaced by the new drug treatment. The experimenters expect that the new method will also find use in diagnosis of mental ills.

*Science News Letter, November 28, 1931*

SAFETY

## Pavement Stop Signs Have Letters Shaped Wrongly

**T**HE COMMON stop sign painted on the pavement to halt motorists before a dangerous intersection usually is speedily run over, not because of carelessness but because a warning in ordinary shaped letters cannot be read until it is too late to stop.

However, let the letters be stretched until they are tall and thin, and then the warning can be read easily at three to four times the former distance, the National Safety Council suggests.

"At a distance of six or eight yards ordinary letters are so foreshortened as

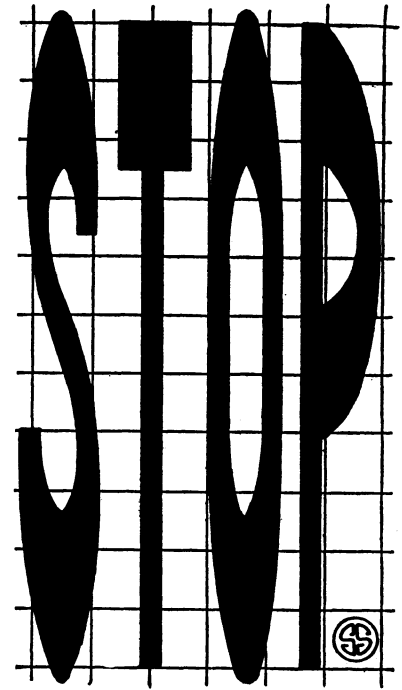
METEOROLOGY

## Clouds Make Day Bright When Sun is Partly Hidden

**T**HAT DAYLIGHT may be brighter when the sun is partly hidden than when the sky is clear, at the same time of day, is shown by an automatic photographic recorder invented by Prof. Wallace A. Thomson at the Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg.

When the sky is covered with light clouds and the sun itself out of view the recorded illumination was found greater than in full sunlight in the absence of clouds.

Thus though a cloud in front of the sun might reduce the intensity by thirty-five per cent., this might on favorable



PROPER SHAPE

*Stretching pavement letters makes them readable. Hold the page at eye-level to see the effect.*

to become illegible," it was stated. "But if the letters are five and one-half feet high and seven inches wide, they will appear approximately square at a distance of fifteen yards, and may be read easily at a much greater distance."

Some letters have been designed to give best results for distances from 20 to 40 yards. This in general gives time enough to stop.

*Science News Letter, November 28, 1931*

occasions be more than balanced by the reflecting effect of a cloudbank. Of course, when the unobscured sun was also reinforced by reflecting clouds the brightness was at a maximum.

A continuous photographic record of the changes of illumination intensities was obtained with this apparatus, which consists of a photoelectric cell connected to a galvanometer. The photoelectric cell used for this work was mounted in a hemisphere silvered on the inside to reduce the intensity of the illumination incident on the cell.

*Science News Letter, November 28, 1931*