

slope. Although they are probably not at all on the same line of descent, the gorilla, the Australian native and the European white man illustrate the development of facial steepness very well indeed. The great ape's face is human though he still has a decided "mug"; the European is straight-faced, and we even encounter dishfaced individuals.

Another cranial change that past ages have brought, and future ages may continue, is the smoothing of the skull. Apes develop a crest of bone and tremendous eyebrow ridges. Primitive man had heavy eyebrow ridges also, and these ridges survive, reduced, in many moderns. But on the whole there has been a smoothing off of angles, an evening out of curves.

In this feature, the females have always kept ahead of the males, in apes, in primitive men, in moderns. If the refinement of the skull continues along the lines of the past, we may expect the men of 500,000 years hence to have "feminine" skulls. Meantime the women will have achieved still rounder skulls and smaller faces—their crania will have become infantile.

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MEDICINE

Trichinosis Deaths Traced To Parasite in Heart

ACTUAL micro-organisms and not some mysterious poison thought to have been generated by them are responsible for fatal inflammation of the heart in human cases of trichinosis, the disease produced in humans through the eating of undercooked pork in which the parasite, *Trichina*, is present.

This discovery was made by Drs. Carl V. Weller, Glenn A. Dunlap and John C. Buhger of the University of Michigan.

Most thorough microscopic examination of diseased heart tissue recovered from post mortem cases apparently had failed to show the presence of the encapsulated *Trichina* embryo, he explained, although these could be found in great numbers in muscle tissue throughout the rest of the body. Yet it was this acute inflammation of the heart tissue that caused death some weeks after infection with the organism. Hundreds of fatal cases were studied, but always with the same negative result. Thus it was assumed that the conclusions of

MEDICINE

Many in Schools for Blind Could Have Sight Restored

MANY children who are now in schools for the blind might have their sight restored through adequate medical or surgical treatment.

This fact was discovered in the course of a survey undertaken by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness and the Committee on Statistics of the Blind. Measures to bring these children proper medical attention and eventually to restore their eyesight are now being taken.

"Ignorance is usually the underlying reason for loss of sight, whether it be the result of disease or accident," Lewis H. Carris, managing director of the Society, asserted in making public the Society's annual report which described the survey of children in schools for the blind as well as other activities of the Society. This particular survey was made as part of a study of causes of blindness. A series of reports on the situation will soon be published.

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▼ PSYCHOLOGY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

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an address by

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Wednesday, April 18, at 4:30 p. m., Eastern Standard Time, over Stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Each week a prominent scientist speaks over the Columbia System under the auspices of Science Service.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Stomach Trouble Treatment Aided by Psychologists

PSYCHOLOGICAL methods so aided the recovery of 19 patients suffering from gastric disturbances that within six weeks they were eating anything they wanted without ill effects, it was reported to the New York Branch of the American Psychological Association by Dr. M. N. Chappell, of Columbia University and his associates, Dr. J. J. Stefano of Brooklyn Hospital, Dr. J. S. Rogerson and Dr. F. H. Pike, of Columbia University.

The psychological treatment was supplementary to ordinary medical treatment. A "control" group of 21 patients received only the medical treatment; only 14 of these were greatly improved after a month's time, and these suffered a return of their symptoms when their diet was broadened.

No mystical or mysterious explanation is necessary to account for the success of this treatment, the scientists explain. They did not use psychoanalytic methods. The symptoms of the patients were caused by increased activity and tension of the digestive system which in turn was caused by worry and other emotions. Application of the psychological laws of learning and forgetting enabled the patients to forget the ideas upon which they had been dwelling, and so relieve the physical condition. The procedure will work even where tissue injury is present, provided the injury is not so great as to require surgical treatment, the investigators reported.

The subjects for the experiment were volunteers located through the aid of John O'Neal, then science editor of the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.

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earlier investigators were correct.

Then at this juncture a discovery was made. Medical men had been searching for the familiar, rounded, encapsulated form of the embryo. Dr. Buhger was puzzled by the presence in his microscope field of a long, slender granulated body, easily confused with ordinary tissue. He studied it closely and finally recovered a specimen of the *Trichina* embryo un-encysted. Further examination revealed others. But other fatal cases failed to give the same results.

Experiments on animals revealed that the free embryo may be found in the heart muscles seven to fifteen days after infection, but that after this time it disappears and cannot be seen in any form. This is true although the other muscles in the body may be crammed with the parasite. Nevertheless, the acute inflammation of the heart continues, and it is this condition which causes death, Dr. Buhger stated.

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