

## NUTRITION

# Baby Gets Food Powders

Strained vegetables may be replaced by dried form for duration. Conveniences and ease of shipping expected to increase distribution. Reconstituted with water.

► CONVENIENT SMALL cans of strained vegetables for babies may be out for the duration, but mothers will not be forced to cook and strain the baby's vegetables. Dried, powdered vegetables can be safely substituted for infant feeding, Dr. Reuel A. Benson, professor of pediatrics at New York Medical College, has discovered.

Convenience to American mothers is not the only result expected from Dr. Benson's findings. Babies and small children in war-devastated regions are particularly in need of vegetables in easily digested form. Many more of them will be able to get these foods, because from eight to ten pounds of fresh vegetables are reduced to one pound by dehydration, with consequent saving in shipping space.

Even two-day-old infants can be safely given the powdered, dried vegetables when suitably diluted with water, Dr. Benson announces (*Archives of Pediatrics*, July 24).

Babies under four months of age are usually not given vegetables, even

strained ones, because of the difficulty at that young age of swallowing solid foods. Dr. Benson does not recommend routine use of the powdered vegetables for very young infants. The fact that 84 newborn infants were able to take the dehydrated vegetables from the second to tenth day of life without harm shows, however, that they may be safely given to older babies. The powdered, dried vegetables were also given to 34 older infants and 36 older children without any trouble.

The drying process does not appreciably lessen the nourishing value of the vegetables except for loss of anti-scurvy vitamin C.

The dried vegetables may be given in more concentrated form to counteract constipation in infants and children, Dr. Benson discovered. Powdered vegetables may also be useful for allergic children, he suggests, since the process may alter the protein content somewhat as the protein in evaporated milk is altered so that it causes less sensitivity than fluid milk.

*Science News Letter, September 5, 1942*

resources. When one allows for the considerable number of able students who drop out while in college because of economic pressure and further makes allowance for the reduction in academic efficiency of two-thirds of the boys and one-half of the girls who support themselves in whole or in part, he said, the immensity of the bias is placed in perspective.

*Science News Letter, September 5, 1942*

## INVENTION

## Air Transmits the Power From Engine to Propeller

► A NOVEL method of transmitting power from engine to propeller in airplanes is proposed by a French inventor, R. P. Pescara of Paris, under patent 2,292,288. The propeller is mounted on the shaft of an air turbine, and the compressed air to drive it is delivered by air compressors directly connected to the pistons of engines embedded in the thick part of the wing. M. Pescara claims that his system solves the problem of changing speeds and eliminates the need for variable-pitch propellers. He has assigned a tenth of his interests to a Swiss Corporation, Societe d'Etudes et de Participations Eau, Gaz, Electricite, Energie, S. A., of Geneva.

*Science News Letter, September 5, 1942*

## AGRICULTURE

## Florida Rice Harvest Success; Extend Plans

► RICE-GROWING in southern Florida has proved a decided success, in an experimental planting of 18 acres set out last spring by J. A. Jamison, Martin County superintendent of schools. He has just taken in his harvest, and finds it ran between 50 and 60 bushels to the acre. (See *SNL*, June 13.)

Mr. Jamison, who grew up in the rice country of Arkansas, decided to try rice growing despite skepticism of neighbors, because he hoped to find a good, cheap, locally-raised grain for chicken raisers, who were keeping themselves constantly in the red because they had to purchase most of their feed. So he is distributing most of this year's harvest for seed, and intends to plant 30 acres himself next year.

Rice land is easy to find in Florida. In fact, wet fields and ponds are what most farmers "ain't got nothin' else but." So Mr. Jamison is hopeful for the future of his experiment.

*Science News Letter, September 5, 1942*

## PHILOSOPHY

# Brain Power Is Wasted

► DUE TO economic barriers that stand in the way of a college education for the abler boys and girls who graduate from high school, America is losing annually the largest portion of the most promising brain power of the nation.

This was charged by Prof. Eli Ginzberg of Columbia University at the Third Annual Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion held in New York.

"We are oblivious to this one serious shortcoming in our educational system that costs us dearly in progress, both material and spiritual," Prof. Ginzberg said. "For the inventions that will never be made, for the cures that will never be developed, for the art that will never be produced, we have been and are paying a very high price.

"The democracy for which rich and poor, superior and average are laying

down their lives can only be brought closer to realization if steps are taken to reform the educational system so that inheritance of brains can cancel out some of the advantages of the inheritance of property."

Although approximately half of all college students are enrolled in institutions supported by public funds, Prof. Ginzberg points out, that fact should not obscure the very serious economic bias in our higher educational structures, as evident from the fact that the college entrance group is composed of approximately one-quarter of the high school graduating classes. But it is not the best quarter when best is defined in terms of intelligence tests and academic achievement. This means, he explained, that most of the able members of the graduating classes fail to go to college, a failure largely based on their lack of economic