

hypotheses need not be true or even probable.

Perhaps this disarming note was a blessing in disguise. For the Church overlooked the revolutionary importance of Copernican theory until 1616, when the treatise was placed on the Index.

But Copernicus had started the earth and the planets spinning through space. He revolutionized man's outlook on the universe and helped usher in the era of modern science.

The new truth was to struggle for two centuries for recognition and acceptance. But as early as 1721 in our own country, Cotton Mather conceded that the "Copernican hypothesis is now

generally preferred," and that "there is no objection against the motion of the earth."

Now, 400 years after the death of Copernicus, scholars and scientists everywhere pause to pay tribute to his memory. A Copernican Quadricentennial program has been planned for May 24 under the sponsorship of the Kosciuszko Foundation to foster cultural relations between the people of the United States and Poland.

Both are fighting to make the world free for scientific thought and development for which the great Polish astronomer stands.

Science News Letter, May 22, 1943



COPERNICUS — *Founder of astronomy.*

PSYCHOLOGY

Good Diet Raises IQ

Children tested when under-nourished and again when getting good diet showed increase of as much as 18 points IQ. Only very young helped.

➤ **INTELLIGENCE** of undernourished little children can be increased as much as 18 points IQ by proper diet, Dr. I. Newton Kugelmass, New York physician, told the meeting of the American Association on Mental Deficiency in New York.

Dr. Kugelmass reported the results of IQ tests of 182 children who were malnourished at the time of their first mental tests and well nourished when the second test was given. The rise in IQ points averaged 10 points IQ for mentally retarded children up to as much as 18 points for the mentally normal. Children who were well nourished when both tests were given showed no such mental improvement.

Unfortunately, the increase in intelligence is insignificant, however, if the poorly fed child is over four years old. The younger the malnourished child, the better the chance that good food will help the mind.

Science News Letter, May 22, 1943

Asphyxia Dulls Minds

➤ **SUFFOCATION** of babies during the process of birth or before may make them feeble-minded, the meeting learned from the report of Dr. Stanley S. Lamm, of the Long Island College of Medicine.

"The cells of the brain are particularly susceptible to lack of oxygen," Dr. Lamm said. "And asphyxia which primarily

leads to deficient oxygenation of the blood is a potent cause of mental deficiency."

"Premature babies," Dr. Lamm added, "are especially susceptible." Efforts should be made, he said, to delay their birth until they are large enough to withstand the hardships of birth.

Complications of labor, including the excessive use of anesthetics and sedative drugs, may lead to the partial suffocation of the infant.

Recognition that asphyxia has a part in producing mental deficiency may lead to a reduction in the number of such cases, Dr. Lamm predicts.

Science News Letter, May 22, 1943

Defectives in Army

➤ **MENTAL** defectives are making good as paratroopers and in other branches of the armed services, Dr. Robert H. Haskell and Dr. Alfred A. Strauss, of the Wayne County Training School, Northville, Mich., told the meeting.

The first hundred high grade mental defectives known to have enlisted or to have been drafted after rehabilitation in the Training School were checked up on by the physicians after the boys had been six months in service. The majority had made good and 30% had been promoted.

A third of the boys were paratroop-

ers, cavalrymen or in other special services. Some others were in the Navy and Marine Corps.

"The ultimate decision as to the fitness for military service of high grade and borderline mental defectives has to be carefully weighed," Dr. Haskell commented, "between community protection against later costly casualties and fairness to individuals willing and capable of serving their country."

Science News Letter, May 22, 1943

ENGINEERING

Transparent Test Chamber Made From Bomber Nose

See Front Cover

➤ **INGENUITY** made it possible for radio engineers making altitude tests of radio equipment to speed up their work, and at the same time improve it.

The unfinished plastic nose of a famous American bombing plane was put to use as a transparent chamber for the stratosphere tests. The clear vision it affords on all sides makes it possible for several engineers to test and inspect any piece of radio apparatus at one time, and eliminates the difficulties encountered in the older type of test chambers made of metal and with only small ports to peer through.

The new test chamber, pictured on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, is a development of the RCA Victor Camden Plant.

Science News Letter, May 22, 1943