

The men should have drills in mutual aid such as firemen's drills in carrying unconscious or injured men up and down ladders, how to leap into the sea alone and with injured men, breaking the hold of panic-stricken men on other men or on a sinking ship and how to care for men with severe burns or other injuries. All this will generate a sense of individual security and group solidarity under stress.

The physicians also urge the preparation and distribution of a booklet on psychiatric as well as physiologic first aid.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

## PSYCHIATRY

## Patient Sees Everything As Growing Small

► THE STRANGE case of a seventeen-year-old boy who saw objects around him getting small and even felt himself get small, just like the heroine of Alice in Wonderland, was reported by Dr. Ernest Lewy of the Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kansas, at the meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Unlike Alice, this patient did not have to get small to fit the shrunken size of things around him, though he did report that he was afraid to put his underwear on because it seemed so small. He saw things small, Dr. Lewy explained, as a defense mechanism against feeling small himself.

The state of seeing things small is called micropsia. Dr. Lewy's patient experienced it during the onset of a severe mental illness and also when he was recovering from it, but not during the illness itself. It occurred when he was feeling "low" and losing his sense of reality, and seemed to represent a feeling or fear of imminent disintegration of the ego.

The feeling of smallness has a parallel in everyday life as shown by such expressions as "cutting him down" or making another person feel small, Dr. Leo H. Bartemeier, of Detroit, commented. His explanation of the patient's feeling and seeing small was that it was dictated by a sense of guilt as a method of appeasing his conscience which threatened him with the fear of losing his masculinity.

When Lewis Carroll wrote of Alice seeing small and growing small in her dream, he was, Dr. Lewy said, using the intuitive knowledge which poets and novelists sometimes have of conditions psychiatrists see in their patients.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

## • New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ A MINIATURE wind tunnel and wing section now on the market can be used by school students taking a pre-flight course. It shows what makes a plane spin or stall and just how the ailerons and flaps work.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

⚙️ A NEW SIGNAL LAMP for aircraft operates by "black light" thrown on a fluorescent indicator. It shows up in sunlight or total darkness and is said to improve vision in night flying.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

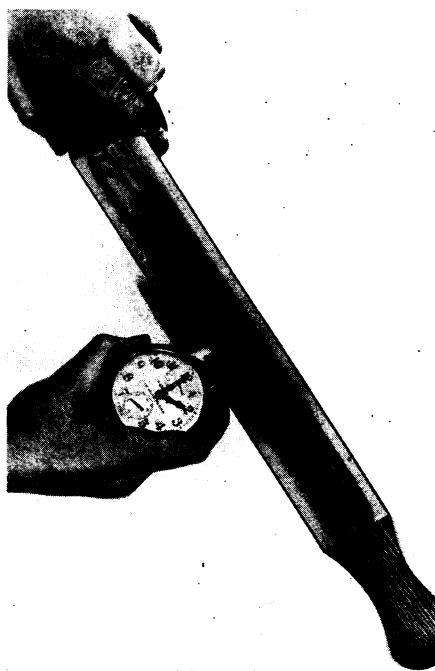
⚙️ PLASTIC HINGES, strong and lightweight, may be cut in any length and attached by adhesives, rivets or screws. One aircraft producer uses the new hinges on tool boxes, radio, map and chart cases, and other equipment.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

⚙️ SPECIAL REFRIGERATION equipment installed in army and civilian flying fields is used to kill moths in aviators' wool and fur-lined flying suits. Killing results from shock cycles of repeated heating and cooling treatments.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

⚙️ A NEW DEVICE reduces the daily time-consuming task of winding your watch to about two seconds and eliminates "finger fatigue and calluses." In watch testing laboratories, where many



watches must be wound each day, it has a real practical advantage. The device is a strip of fabric-backed polyvinyl plastic on a paddle a foot long. Along this, the winding stem is drawn in one motion.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

⚙️ AN IMPROVED electronic device is used by the Army to standardize camouflage colors. It can distinguish between 2,000,000 different colors.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

⚙️ A LEAF SPRING landing gear for training planes has been drop-tested, flight-tested and approved, and will be installed on 25 training planes for further testing, it is reported. When the airplane hits the ground the spring gear spreads out and the wheels dampen the rebound. Made from non-critical steel plate, the gear is cheaper than the present strut and saves time in construction.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

⚙️ A NEW TRANSPARENT phonograph record has a glass base and a smooth plastic surface. It is reported to reproduce tones with a high degree of accuracy.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

⚙️ IMPROVED GLASS gages are replacing steel gages in Army factories and arsenals. The new glass gage is more easily handled, furnishes greater visibility, does not rust, and has better wearing qualities.

*Science News Letter, May 22, 1943*

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to Science News Letter, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 157.

The world's more important phosphate reserves are in the United States, Russia and North Africa, all territory under control of the United Nations; without phosphates German farms will produce decreased crops.

The dairy industry is asking that dry skim milk be known as dry milk solids or defatted milk solids because of a wrong belief that skim milk has little food value.

A new rip-proof fabric called five-harness sateen, has been developed for the Army mountain troops; it is claimed to have high tearing strength and superior wearing qualities.