

be jettisoned, whether still loaded or empty. It can even be dumped with its bombs all set to "safe," when preparing to make an emergency landing on a friendly airfield. It is also removable for reloading, so that a plane can be "bombed up" more or less like loading a clip of cartridges into a rifle except for the larger scale of the operation.

Primary feature, however, is the method of delivering the bombs in nor-

mal runs over a target. The bombs are loaded on an endless chain conveyor which is moved by a motor under control of pilot or bombardier. They are released one by one as they are brought in line with a bomb chute. The operator can drop them singly, or he can deliver "sticks" or strings in any degree of spacing he desires, by regulating the speed of the motor.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1944

gas near the muzzle it has it only a short distance in front of the chamber. The piston has a short stroke, and does not necessarily move parallel with the bore; various alternative means are shown for applying its power to a solid rod-like piece of metal that thrusts backward into the stock, which the inventor calls an inertia member. This unlocks and opens the breech, and at the same time compresses a long helical spring which furnishes the energy for the return stroke that inserts a new cartridge and closes the breech.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1944

SOCIOLOGY

Race Prejudice

Is not inevitable and can be eliminated from society. Tendencies which inevitably lead to biased racial feelings could be redirected or suppressed.

➤ RACIAL PREJUDICE is "definitely" not inevitable and can be eradicated from a society, Dr. Scudder Mekeel, of the University of Wisconsin and the Julius Rosenwald Fund, declared to the American Orthopsychiatric Association meeting in Chicago.

A comparison of human societies, he pointed out, shows that not only are individuals modified for getting along in a particular society but that such modification often entails the controlling or almost complete repression of many human tendencies and needs.

Prejudice arises from certain tendencies, he explained. First of all, there is a definite tendency for groups to feel superior to others. At the same time, there is a tendency for aggressions and anxieties to be projected on these "out-groups." Sometimes these are directed against persons within the society as scapegoats.

"However," Dr. Mekeel stated, "it is possible for such tendencies to be redirected or suppressed by society."

He cited Hawaii, Brazil and Russia as societies where racial prejudice is at a minimum.

In our own society and culture, the most significant thing about race prejudice is that it is socially sanctioned and learned. It is a "ready-made and culturally normal outlet for at least mild forms of hostility, fear and superiority."

Science News Letter, February 26, 1944

Remedy for Race Riots

➤ A METHOD for overcoming prejudice of the intense kind that led to zoot-suit disturbances and race riots in Los Angeles last year was proposed by

Dr. Dorothy W. Baruch of that city. Providing better jobs, better housing and better recreational facilities and education of the groups involved are not enough to remedy the situation, she declared.

The terrific hostility born of long periods of frustration and fear cannot so easily be cured. Frequently, as orthopsychiatrists have learned, people cannot use what is provided, whether it be information and education, or a new situation. Actual psychiatric treatment is required.

Both the majority groups and the minority groups, she said, must be helped to do three things: first, to face the fact that they have hostility in them; second, to reduce its violence; third, to handle knowingly left-over hostility that cannot be drained.

From such treatment will come a lessening of guilt, a growth in feelings of personal strength and worth, a lessening of isolation and a growth in feelings of mutuality and belonging. As a result, and only by such methods, Dr. Baruch believes, various peoples could live together safe from unreasoning attack and free to work together toward the building of a new kind of world.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1944

ORDENANCE

New Semi-Automatic Rifle Has Simple Construction

➤ A SEMI-AUTOMATIC rifle of simplified construction, on which T. F. Horan of New Haven, Conn., received patent No. 2,341,780, is gas-operated, like the Army's model M-1, but instead of having the take-off for the powder

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 45 FEBRUARY 26, 1944 No. 9

The weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. North 2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; two years, \$8.00; 15 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, if still available, 25 cents.

Copyright, 1944, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Entered as second class matter at the post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark. U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices, Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and in the Engineering Index.

The New York Museum of Science and Industry has elected SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as its official publication to be received by its members.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N.Y.C., Pennsylvania 6-5566; and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, STAt 4439.

SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois; Edwin G. Conklin, American Philosophical Society. **Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences:** R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology; Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; W. H. Lewis, Wislar Institute. **Nominated by the National Research Council:** Ross G. Harrison, Yale University; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Hugh S. Taylor, Princeton University. **Nominated by the Journalistic Profession:** O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism; A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News; Neil H. Swanson, Executive Editor, Sun Papers. **Nominated by the E. W. Scripps Estate:** Frank R. Ford, Evansville Press; Warren S. Thompson, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; Harry L. Smithton, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Officers—President: Edwin G. Conklin. **Vice President and Chairman of Executive Committee:** Harlow Shapley. **Treasurer:** O. W. Riegel. **Secretary:** Watson Davis.

Staff—Director: Watson Davis. **Writers:** Frank Thone, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Morton Mott-Smith, A. C. Monahan, Martha G. Morrow. **Librarian:** Jerome Harris. **Science Clubs of America:** Joseph H. Kraus, Margaret E. Patterson. **Photography:** Fremont Davis. **Sales and Advertising:** Hallie Jenkins. **Business Manager:** Columbus S. Barber.