

"to use this occasion as a time to gather with parents, teachers, and other citizens, or by themselves, in schools, churches and community centers, and to consider how we can make our home and community life contribute in full measure to the building of buoyant health and valiant spirit in all our boys and girls."

Food, housing, safety, recreation, and such matters of personal hygiene as exercise, sleep and rest are topics suggested by the U. S. Children's Bureau for consideration at the May Day planning forums. The idea, of course, is to decide on one or possibly two such

health problems to be tackled during the coming year, but not to try to take on all the health problems of the community.

"People who run down their own health while trying to help others aren't smart," the Children's Bureau points out in a warning not to attempt too much.

Good advice on which is the biggest health job for boys and girls in your community can be had from the local health department, the local medical society, the parent-teacher association, church organizations and similar groups.

Science News Letter, April 29, 1944

MEDICINE

Leukemia Conquest Clue

Fatal malignant disease causing increased number of white blood cells can be prevented in rats by injections of adrenal or pituitary hormone.

➤ A NEW CLUE that may lead to conquest of leukemia, fatal malignant disease characterized by increased number of white blood cells, has been found in the adrenal glands.

Transplantable lymphatic leukemia can be prevented in rats by injections of the adrenal cortical hormone or the pituitary hormone that stimulates adrenal gland activity, Dr. James B. Murphy and Dr. Ernest Sturm, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, report. (*Science*, April 14).

Attempts to prevent the disease in humans by injection of adrenal cortical hormone will not be practical, Dr. Murphy said, unless or until some test can be devised for picking out persons with hormone deficiency likely to lead to leukemia.

As to treatment of leukemia, he and

Dr. Sturm state that it would be "entirely unjustifiable" on the basis of the rat studies "to predict that the adrenal hormone would be of value in treating either the transplanted or the spontaneous disease."

Present importance of the studies seems to lie in the fact that they open an entirely new point of view for investigation. Heretofore efforts to control leukemia have been along the lines of attempting to destroy the malignant cells by X-rays or radioactive substances. Now it appears that this malignant disease may be controlled through the endocrine gland system, just as another malignant disease, cancer of the prostate, is apparently proving amenable to control via the endocrine glands.

Science News Letter, April 29, 1944

ASTRONOMY

January Eclipse Time

➤ WORD has been received at the Harvard Observatory clearing house from astronomers at Lima, Peru, giving more precise observed times for the eclipse of the sun on Jan. 25 than have heretofore been published. These make the actual duration of totality slightly more than 164 seconds, which is about three seconds less than the predicted duration.

Dean Godofredo Gracia of San Marcos University in Lima transmitted the

results of observations by Prof. Alfred Rosenblatt and Juan M. Portocarrero. Their observations of the eclipse were made at the observatory in the Colegio San Jose in Chiclayo, Peru, close to the center of the path of totality and near where several other expeditions had made their headquarters, including the Mexican eclipse expedition headed by Dr. Joaquin Gallo, director of the National Observatory at Tacubaya, Mexico.

An important moment during an eclipse occurs when the moon first touches the sun's disk, making what astronomers call first contact. It is very difficult to determine this time by observation precisely, whereas timing the moment of second contact, when the moon completes its job of covering the sun's brilliant disk, is considerably easier because at second contact the last ray of direct sunlight is hidden by the moon just as if a camera shutter had been closed.

The predicted time for second contact of the Jan. 25 eclipse, according to the calculations of Lima astronomers, was 14 hours 7 minutes 33.6 seconds, universal time. Their observations showed the total phase to begin at 14 hours 7 minutes 34.25 seconds, or slightly later than predicted. Third contact, the end of totality, was predicted for 14 hours 10 minutes 20.9 seconds, but observed at 14 hours 10 minutes 18.53 seconds, or nearly two and a half seconds early. The total observed duration of totality was thus two minutes 44.3 seconds, or some three seconds shorter than the calculated time of two minutes 47.3 seconds.

The position of the observing site used by the Lima astronomers is given as longitude 79 degrees 51 minutes 23.42 seconds west; latitude 6 degrees, 47 minutes, 15.10 seconds south; altitude 28.57 meters.

Science News Letter, April 29, 1944

PSYCHOLOGY

Tests Show Marihuana Does Not Help

➤ MUSICIANS, especially members of dance orchestras, may think marihuana improves their musical ability, but psychological tests with a synthetic marihuana-like chemical show it does not, Dr. C. Knight Aldrich, U. S. Public Health Service, reports. (*Public Health Reports*, March 31.)

The tests were made with 12 healthy white male patients who volunteered for the experiment. All were serving prison sentences for violation of the Marihuana Tax Act and had used the drug for an average of nine and one-half years. Of the 12, two were professional musicians and two had musical ambitions.

The Seashore tests, played on phonograph records, were used "because they seemed to offer the most carefully standardized tests available of musical capability."

Each man was given the test three times at intervals of one week. The