

## Do You Know?

*Sweet potatoes* will not stand frost, nor grow well in cool weather.

Mobile *flour mills* for liberated areas in Europe are being made in England.

*Lobster eggs* develop for approximately 10 months under the tail of the mother.

*Flying insects* have descended from wingless ancestors.

A portion of *blood plasma* leaves the capillaries to form tissue juices and is returned to the blood by lymphatic vessels.

*Tomato juice* is usually the most practical alternate for citrus juices at times when oranges and grapefruit are scarce or expensive.

Vegetables to be *quick-frozen* need not be sterilized but should be subjected to a blanching or scalding process to prevent loss of color, flavor, and nutritive value during the freezing storage.

### VIBRATION Fatigue Testing

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Model 100V in research laboratory of Carl Hussman Engineers, Inc., Chicago, makers of vibration control and stabilization devices.

**ALL AMERICAN**  
Tool & Manufacturing Co.  
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one auto manufacturing company has already announced that special equipment will be provided free of cost to

disabled soldiers who drive that particular make of car.

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PSYCHIATRY

## Unaware of Others

➤ AN unusual mental illness affecting children of intelligent parents in which the small patients live in a strange world of their own completely without people has been observed by Dr. Leo Kanner, child psychiatrist of Baltimore. Nearly half the families of these children are represented in *Who's Who* or in *American Men of Science*, or both.

Loving hands dressing or caring for these children are to them just hands—objects not belonging to any person. And when an adult takes away a toy or steps on something the child wants, the child becomes angry at the offending hand or foot but never so much as looks up at its owner.

Seven of the 20 children so far observed with this illness have never learned to talk, but even those who did learn to talk did not, over a period of years, use language to convey any meaning to other people. They usually do not pay any attention when they are spoken to and show no interest whatever in conversation going on around them.

Although, at one time or another, all of these children have been thought to be feeble-minded because of their strange behavior, actually all have good intelligence. Some were even considered as infant prodigies. One little boy, Charles, in a family with considerable musical talent was able at the age of only a year and a half to discriminate between 18 symphonies. He recognized the composer as soon as the first movement started and would say his name. Paul at three years knew the words of 37 songs as well as many nursery rhymes.

But the tragedy of the illness is summed up in the words of Charles' mother, "The thing that upsets me most is that I can't reach my baby." Apparently from the beginning of life these babies have lived alone "in a shell" and shut out, ignored, disregarded anything that came to them from outside. Nearly every mother reported that never had her baby held up his arms to be picked up.

Left alone, however, the children seem happy and they handle inanimate objects with skill and pleasure.

They have an anxiously obsessive desire for sameness. Changes of routine, of surroundings, even of furniture arrange-

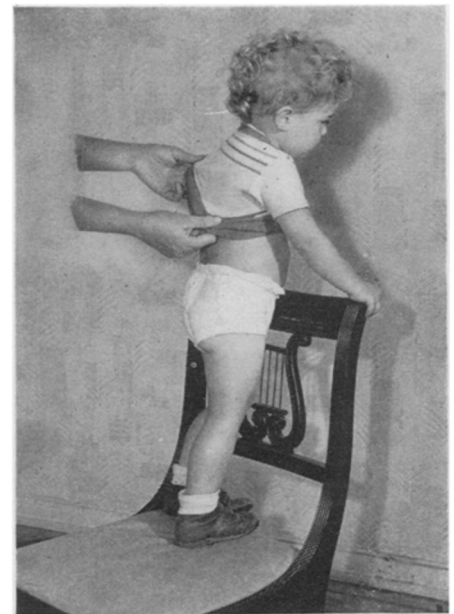
ment may be violently upsetting to them.

Dr. Kanner raises the question as to whether the gifts of the parents might not have actually contributed to the illness of their children. For the most part, parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts are persons strongly preoccupied with abstractions of a scientific, literary, or artistic nature and are limited in genuine interest in people. Even some of the happiest marriages are rather cold and formal affairs.

And yet the children's aloneness from birth makes it difficult to attribute the illness entirely to relations with the parents.

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Different varieties of *tomatoes* have different amounts of vitamin C.



**JUST HANDS**—Mother's hands dressing or caring for her baby are only hands and nothing more to the infant suffering from an unusual mental illness of children of intelligent parents. The child never looks up at the person belonging to the hands. This photograph was posed by the Science Service staff photographer, Fremont Davis, to show how a child with this illness might react to a mother's care.