

## Do You Know?

The cost of a *medical education* ranges from \$8,000 to \$12,000.

*Malaria* is a disease of the mosquito; man is an intermediate host.

Water-resistant *matches*, developed for soldiers, are now available for civilians; they will light after hours of soaking.

The *fungus* responsible for white pine blister rust cannot spread the infection from pine to pine, but lives one stage of its life on currant or gooseberry plants.

"Quick" *oatmeal* has a nutritional advantage over the old fashioned kind, it is claimed, since the content of vitamin B<sub>1</sub> or thiamin, decreases after the first 30 minutes of cooking.

A *shipping canal* to by-pass the Suez is said to be under consideration in London; it would be located in southern Palestine, connecting the Mediterranean near Gaza with a northern arm of the Red Sea close by Aqaba.

The strain of *mold* now used for most of the nation's penicillin production can be traced back to a mold on a Peoria, Ill., cantaloupe; with the help of X-rays or ultraviolet rays the yield of penicillin has been doubled.

## YOUR HAIR AND ITS CARE

By O. L. Levin, M. D. and H. T. Behrman, M. D.

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plastic filler and explosives. Cork substitute containing ground peanut hulls will probably be produced commercially soon. Plastic molding powders may also be made from the hulls.

The edible portion of the peanut contains major proportions of three primary dietary necessities: protein, carbohydrates and fat. Because of its relatively low moisture content and high percentage of fat, it is one of the most concentrated of foods. One gram supplies 5.8

calories, as compared with 2.3 for beef steak, 3.6 for whole wheat, 2.6 for white bread and 4 for pure cane sugar. In addition, it contains significant amounts of vitamins and minerals.

India ranks first in world production of peanuts, Africa second, China third and the United States fourth. Whereas the others use the peanut only as oil seed or to feed livestock, the United States alone has built up an edible food industry based on peanuts.

Science News Letter, August 10, 1946

### GENERAL SCIENCE

## Smithsonian Century Old

See Front Cover

► THE SMITHSONIAN Institution, America's most venerable research organization, is having a birthday—a very important birthday. It is exactly a century old today.

As part of the celebration, a special postage stamp has been engraved, the first sheet of which was delivered to the Institution's Secretary, Alexander Wetmore, by Postmaster-General Robert T. Hannegan at a special ceremony in the auditorium of the National Museum. The stamp, which is of three-cent denomination, shows the many-turreted old building on the Mall in Washington, D. C., that houses the executive offices of the Institution and part of its exhibits. A view of the building as it appears on the new stamp is shown on the front cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

The Smithsonian Institution, which owes its origin to a bequest made by an Englishman, James Smithson, who never saw America, has charge over the U. S. National Museum, the National Zoological Park, the National Herbarium, the National Gallery of Art, the Freer Gallery of Art, the National Collection of Fine Arts, the Bureau of American Ethnology and the Astrophysical Observatory. Closely associated with the government and administering certain government-supported agencies, the Institution is itself not government-controlled.

Collections in its various museums are in themselves a record of the Institution's long service to America's cultural, scientific and technical development. Here are housed the original models of Morse's telegraph, Whitney's cotton-gin, Howe's sewing-machine, Bell's telephone. Here is the flying-machine built by its secretary at the turn of the century, Dr. Sam-

uel P. Langley, with many another aircraft of later date. Here are some of the first steam locomotives to run on American rails.

Stowed in the great loft of the Smithsonian's administration building are scores of thousands of botanical specimens, many of them recording the travels of hardy souls who "saw the West first." On the other side of the Mall, in the National Museum of Natural History, are the massive skeletons of dinosaurs dug out of the rocks in the same West, decades later.

The natural history of the human races who originally peopled North America is richly illustrated in the collections in the same museum, in tens of thousands of skulls and hundreds of thousands of primitive weapons, tools and pottery vessels.

It is impossible to name any phase of science or culture on which scholarly work has not been done by present and past Smithsonian staff members. And the Institution's second century is now just opening.

Science News Letter, August 10, 1946

### CHEMISTRY

## Chemical Industry Medal to Dow

► THE CHEMICAL Industry medal for 1946 has been awarded to Dr. Willard H. Dow, of Midland, Mich., head of chemical companies that bear his name. He pioneered in production of bromine, magnesium, and other products from sea water, and during the war made styrene for synthetic rubber.

Science News Letter, August 10, 1946

The average *person* of 70 has slept enough throughout his life to total 20 years.