

GENERAL SCIENCE

Office Discussions Help

► OFFICE DISCUSSION about last night's date and tomorrow's baseball game may actually help get more work done. And singing on the assembly line probably has some bearing on the rate of production.

Instances where things like this actually happened were the take-off point for discussion of work and human values in industrial civilization. It was part of a conference on living in industrial civilization held in Corning, N. Y., under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Corning Glass Works to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the glass factory.

The discussion, led by Dr. Douglas MacGregor, president of Antioch College, and participated in by leaders in industry, labor and education, then considered what the meaning of work in an industrial civilization was to the worker.

Dr. E. Wight Bakke, director of the labor and management center at Yale was quoted on what work meant: "To play a

socially respected and admired role; to win a degree of economic security customary among one's associates, to gain an increasing amount of control over one's own affairs, and in all of these to experience satisfying and predictable relations with the members of the groups with which one is most intimately associated—these are the goals which our informants were most vigorously striving to reach."

Complexities of modern industrial life which stood in the way of reaching these goals were discussed. It was pointed out that the plant is a complicated social system and that the pattern of human relationships within the plant affects the life of the community. People spend more time on their jobs than anywhere else except in bed, it was said.

Broad research programs, delving into the workers' relationships with their jobs and how those relationships affect their families, their homes and their communities, were suggested.

Science News Letter, May 26, 1951

communications, but the storm never materialized at the predicted time.

Shown on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, in a photograph taken by Mrs. L. T. Day of the U. S. Naval Observatory, the region could easily be spotted by looking at the sun through smoked glasses or several thicknesses of film negatives for eye protection.

Although the huge sun spot area looks dark, it is really not dark at all—it is merely darker than the surrounding area.

Dr. William Markowitz of the Naval Observatory estimated that the spot area stretched out over 150,000 miles. As astronomers measure the size of sun spot regions, this one was at least 4,200-millionths. That is, if the sun's visible disk is divided into millionths, this disturbance covers 4200 of these divisions.

The largest sun spot ever recorded covered an area of 5,400-millionths. This spot region passed the central meridian of the sun on Feb. 5, 1946.

The activity was unexpected because the 11-year sunspot cycle is approaching a minimum.

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MEDICINE

Spring Time For Ticks

► AS THE weather warms up, more of you will be cleaning up gardens, picnicking, hiking and otherwise getting into the woods and underbrush. At the same time the dangerous, blood-sucking ticks will be coming out of their winter quarters. Be on guard against these bugs, since Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tick paralysis are diseases that may result from tick bite.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is no longer quite the worry that it was a few years ago. Two of the new antibiotic drugs, chloromycetin and aureomycin, are reported to give good results in treating this disease, and so is one of the B vitamins, para-aminobenzoic acid, or PABA for short. And there is a vaccine against the disease. Originally, this was made by U. S. Public Health Service scientists, some of whom lost their lives working with the deadly rickettsia germs that cause the disease. Then a new, less dangerous method of making the vaccine was developed and it became possible to produce it commercially. If you live in a tick-infested region, your doctor may have recommended the vaccine for you and the children, but the chances are he is not likely to do so now that there are good remedies available for treating you if you get the disease.

He is likely, however, to advise you to continue to be on guard against ticks. It is no fun to be sick, and even the best of remedies sometimes fail.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever, in spite of its name, is not limited to the Rocky Mountain area where it was first discovered. Cases have been seen in 47 of the 48 states and in recent years most cases have been in the central and eastern states.

If there are ticks in your vicinity, health and medical authorities advise night and morning tick inspections as part of the daily routine for the children and the family dog. Include any grown-ups who have been working in the shrubbery or underbrush or picnicking in the woods. Every part of the body and clothing should be carefully inspected for ticks. If any are seen, use a tweezers or piece of paper to remove them. Never use bare fingers as you can get the disease from handling crushed infected ticks.

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ASTRONOMY

Giant Sun Spot Is Biggest in Four Years

See Front Cover

► A GIANT sun spot group, the biggest to mark the sun in four years, was visible on the sun's surface for more than twelve days recently.

The freak spot was expected to cause serious disturbance of short wave radio

BLACKLIGHT LAMP

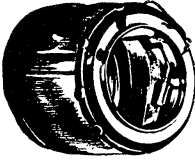


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