vegetables and usually eat or process them as soon as harvested. At the laboratory more attention usually is given to the needs of the truck farmer.

The active breeding program at present is limited to seven crops. Dr. S. H. Yarnell, director of the Laboratory, also personally does the research on cabbage and sweet corn. C. F. Andrus is responsible for the tomato and watermelon breeding. J. C. Hoffman does the breeding of snap beans and lima beans. J. A. Eades devotes his time exclusively to English or garden peas.

The vitamin C in tomatoes and cabbage, niacin and sugar in sweet corn, and fiber content of snap beans are determined by Miss Margaret Kanapaux. All varieties at the Laboratory, to be considered promising, must not only grow well and look appetizing, but also be wholesome to eat.

The study of a new variety of snap bean or tomato, however, only begins at the Vegetable Breeding Laboratory. Once a promising variety has been found, it is tested in several dozen locations throughout the South. Certainly it is possible to get more information in a single season by growing a vegetable in 25 locations than by growing this vegetable in the same plot for 25 years.

The Southern Cooperative Vegetable Trials, a voluntary cooperative network throughout the South, makes it possible to compare new varieties and breeding lines with standard varieties under a wide range of conditions. In this way poorly adapted lines can be pulled out in a single season. By the end of the fourth year, it is fairly well known how a promising new variety will compare with the best ones grown commercially.

Plant breeders, pathologists and horticulturists, state research stations and individuals, in all some 70 persons work together to make these Trials a success. With a chairman for each crop, all promising varieties are thoroughly tested, irrespective of where or by whom they are developed. Those that prove satisfactory in these stringent tests are made avaliable to seedsmen, who in turn soon thereafter offer them to growers for sizable plantings. With each new variety developed, increased profits are in store for growers in the South, and often in other parts of the country as well.

Science News Letter, July 21, 1951

PSYCHOLOGY

Forced Confessions

➤ THE UNITED Nations could take action against Czechoslovakia for their third-degree methods in forcing a confession from the newspaper correspondent William N. Oatis and the grilling of jet pilot Luther G. Roland if the suggestion made by Dr. Joost A. M. Meerloo had been adopted.

Dr. Meerloo urged early this year that the United Nations declare that political intervention in the human mind to force confessions or betrayal is an international crime on a par with genocide. Such an attack on man's mind and will might be called "menticide," Dr. Meerloo proposed in a report to the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY.

Mental torture—menticide—is the stock-in-trade of all police states, Dr. Meerloo points out. He had direct experience with menticide as a physician treating mental and physical ills under the Nazis in the Netherlands for two years.

It is a growing threat to mankind, he said—a threat far worse than genocide because it detroys free thought and makes servile, mechanical instruments of man's inviolate thought processes.

If the prisoner's mind proves too resistant under third-degree methods, Dr. Meerloo reported, narcotics are given to confuse it: mescalin, marihuana, morphine, barbiturates, alcohol. If his body collapses before his mind capitulates, he receives stimulants—benzedrine, caffein, coramine—all of which help to preserve consciousness until he confesses.

Drugs reported used by the Communists to produce confessions would not themselves be effective toward this result, according to medical opinion in this country. "Actedron," one drug reported used for this purpose, is known in the United States under the name benzedrine. It is the "pep pill" used by truck drivers to keep awake on the road and by students who want to stay awake while cramming for examinations. It might be used by the Communists to keep their victims awake during long hours of incessant questioning.

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INVENTION

Twists in Line Replace Ordinary Clothespins

➤ THE NEED for the long-used ordinary clothespin to hold the washing on the line is eliminated with a new type of clothesline on which the government has issued a patent.

This clothesline is made up of a series of twisted wire links. The twisting is in the middle of each link. Both ends of the links are broadened to form a crossbar at one end and a hinged clasp at the other. It is this hinged piece that keeps the clothes on the line.

Patent 2,557,756 was awarded to Melvin L. Ollman, Indianapolis, Ind., for this invention. The patent covers not only the line but a container for the line as well. This container is permanently attached to the line and forms only a small package when the line is collapsed within it.

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