

INVENTION

"Cool" Inventions Patented

➤ A NEW kind of portable ice cream freezer where an electric motor does the work usually done by the boy in the family has received a patent.

The specifically new thing about this invention is that the cover to the freezer, which contains the motor, can be put on in any position rather than in just one or two positions, as in other electrically operated freezers, according to the inventor.

His freezer is made of a plastic with a rubber gasket around the outer rim. The cover is made so the gasket grips its rim in any position. Space is left for the traditional ice and salt between the outside of the freezer and ice cream container.

Inventor is Ford Se Bastian, Chicago, who assigned his patent, 2,599,021 to the Chicago Electric Manufacturing Company, Chicago.

Snow Melter and Vaporizer

Scraping snow off roads and railroads and making it disappear into the air in the form of water vapor can be accomplished with an invention just patented. The inventor is Leonard J. Flynn, Salina, Kans., who received patent number 2,599,098.

The snow or ice is scooped up by the scraper which moves along the road. It then passes over a hot box, where it is melted into water. From the hot box, the water moves into a vaporizing coil, and the vapor is ejected into the air through an exhaust pipe.

This machine does away with piling up snow alongside highways, the inventor says.

Aid to Ice Fishing

An ice fishing flag which not only tilts upward into a vertical position when a fish bites at the bait, but also waves back and forth if the fish runs away with the bait has received a patent.

The inventor is Walter Fred, Worcester, Mass., and he received patent number 2,598,778 for his invention.

In this device, the line, which suspends through a hole in the ice, is attached to a reel. Any movement of the reel springs a lever which sends the flag up to a vertical position. A cam in contact with the reel waves the flag back and forth, if the fish runs with the bait, thus drawing the line off the reel.

Science News Letter, June 14, 1952

PSYCHOLOGY

Emotions Affect Fertility

➤ THE ROLE of a woman's psychology and emotions in keeping her from becoming a mother was stressed in reports to the American Society for the Study of Sterility meeting in Chicago.

Infertility, or inability to become a mother, may be a defense reaction of the body against emotional conflicts that would be mobilized by actual childbearing, Dr. Therese Benedek of Chicago declared.

A biologic adaptation goes on with each phase of childbearing, Dr. Benedek pointed out. While this adaptation is useful in preparing the woman for motherhood and motherliness, it includes a regression to an earlier stage of emotional development.

Depression is likely to accompany such regression. And an unconscious resentment against this return to an earlier stage of development or, as some women feel, to a cow-like state during pregnancy and nursing, may cause enough conflict to block the woman's ability to have children, even when she thinks she wants them.

When a woman consults a doctor because of her inability to have children, the doctor should look for signs in her emotional make-up that might show she should not have children, just as he carefully examines her physically to be sure there is no heart or other condition that would make motherhood too much of a strain.

This opinion was given by Dr. W. S. Kroger of Evanston, Ill.

Allowing an emotionally immature woman to become fertile and have children may "open up the proverbial hornet's nest," Dr. Kroger declared. "The repercussions may result in neurotic children, broken homes and divorce."

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● RADIO

Saturday, June 21, 1952, 3:15-3:30 p.m. EDT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. M. R. Clarkson, assistant to the Agricultural Research Administrator, in charge of Defense Activities of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, discusses "Progress in Veterinary Medicine."

MEDICINE

Epilepsy Cause Seen in False Cover on Brain


➤ SOME CASES of epilepsy, of the kind called idiopathic because no cause is known, may be due to development of false membrane covering the brain. This theory was announced by Drs. Jonathan W. Williams and Harold Stevens of Children's Hospital, Washington, D. C., at the meeting of the American Medical Association in Chicago.

The false membrane cover is tough and inelastic. It has many blood vessels and at times it may extend roots into the brain itself. This forms a scar which may be responsible for later development of convulsive seizures, or fits.

The two doctors said that the condition is responsible for the mental and behavior retardation that follows meningitis in some cases. One of the consequences of meningitis in which pus is formed may be an accumulation of fluid beneath the outermost of the three membranes that normally cover the brain. The fluid can be removed by tapping but a tough, false membrane remains. This prevents further growth of the brain. The condition may also develop in children who have never had meningitis.

If a membrane is present, the doctors advise removing it by an operation. In some of their cases removal of this membrane is followed by a gratifying speed-up in developmental rate.

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