



HARTWELL CARRIER—Children of Denmark who are victims of cerebral palsy have just received a unique gift, the Hartwell Carrier. An adaptation of the overhead trolley conveyor system used by industry, it has proved unusually successful at the University of Rochester Medical Strong Memorial Hospital, N. Y., in helping cerebral palsy youngsters overcome disabilities.

GENERAL SCIENCE

African Science Advances

➤ ALL THE continent of Africa south of the Sahara Desert is being drawn together in a new scientific bootstrap operation.

This was made clear during a visit to SCIENCE SERVICE by Dr. E. B. Worthington, secretary-general of the Scientific Council for Africa, set up only two and a half years ago by the governments of Belgium, France, Portugal, Great Britain, the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

The Council, Dr. Worthington said, is a non-governmental organization of scientists from all over Africa. It hopes by the exchange of scientific and technical information, by joint studies and research, to bring about improvement in the living standards of the African peoples. Better relations between the various nations and colonies and between the various races may result partly from the sociological studies carried on by the Council, Dr. Worthington indicated.

Work is already well ahead in geological surveys, mapping of territories, housing and water conservation. Nutrition and disease remain two of the biggest problems to be solved in Africa. Dr. Worthington emphasized that there is no strictly scientific or medical solution to these two problems.

Overcrowding in some areas, poor living and working conditions in others and a

general lack of knowledge, all contribute to and complicate the problems of nutrition and health. Through a sharing of knowledge among scientists, including sociologists, solutions may be found, he said.

"So far in the history of Africa," Dr. Worthington said, "the scientist has been following, rather than leading, and often striving unsuccessfully to catch up with the administrator and the politician. But we have now in Africa some system for a better international approach. Perhaps from these small beginnings we may see in the field of international relations the scientists occasionally pointing the way, going forward and, I hope with politeness, opening the door."

To help African scientists overcome the relative isolation in which many of them have to work, the Council is giving high priority to the coordination of library and information services.

A directory of scientific and technical libraries in Africa south of the Sahara is being put together. When that is completed, lists of the periodicals held in these libraries will be prepared, and finally, the Council plans to compile detailed catalogues of the libraries' holdings.

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STATISTICS

Men Outnumber Women In Down-Under Countries

➤ GIRLS LOOKING for a man might consider a trip to Australia or New Zealand. Those two countries and the Union of South Africa, India, Pakistan and the Philippine Islands are the only places left in the world where males outnumber females, Metropolitan Life Insurance statisticians report.

Largest deficit of males in the world, probably, is in eastern Germany, where there are only 743 males for every 1,000 females. Figures for the Soviet Union are not available since World War II, but in 1939, even before the heavy losses in that war, there were only 920 males for every 1,000 females.

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MEDICINE

Say "Loose," Not "Tight," From Liquor

➤ THE WORD is "loose," not "tight," to describe the state of a person who has been drinking alcoholic beverages, says Dr. Robert V. Seliger, executive director of the National Committee on Alcohol Hygiene, Baltimore.

"One gets loose in all spheres of activity," Dr. Seliger explains. The reason is that alcohol, contrary to popular opinion, is not a stimulant but a depressant, especially to the higher brain centers.

Dr. Seliger's committee is calling for greater action on a community level in the treatment and prevention of alcoholism. A Los Angeles project has been cited as an example of an approach a city can make to its specific type of alcohol problem. Los Angeles, which on an ordinary day may have up to 3,400 in jail on drunkenness charges, has established a ranch-type farm which can care for 600 alcoholics, "under conditions which have been carefully planned to help restore them to useful living."

Dr. Seliger said this program promises rehabilitation for a large number of these unfortunate men and women.

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