



MAGNETS AID WARREN'S LEARNING—Four-year-old Warren, a cerebral palsy victim, is learning, with the aid of toys with magnets in them, to do "action" things a child his age usually does naturally. Occupational therapist Ruth Brunyate helps him stack blocks that, without magnets, would not make a steady tower. Ordinary blocks tumble down due to Warren's inability to make his hands and fingers do what he wants them to do.

PEDIATRICS

Magnetized Toys Help

► BLOCKS, CARS and other toys with magnets in them are helping cerebral palsied children at Children's Rehabilitation Institute at Cockeysville, Md.

The children have suffered brain damage before or during birth that affects their muscular coordination and control but not their minds. At the institute they are taught to control their muscles so that they can, as many of them as possible, learn to walk, feed and dress themselves and go to school.

However, it is frustrating to these bright youngsters to have the small car or block roll away or fall when they are trying so hard to learn to grasp and manipulate it. Such frustrations may block their desire to learn, explains Miss Ruth W. Brunyate, occupational therapist at the institute. She and her associates, from study of this problem, hit on the idea of magnetizing the toys and other small objects so they would not fall off the metal topped tables the children work at.

Alnico magnets of the small size and shape were made for the institute by Crucible Steel Company of America which ordinarily makes permanent magnets for radio, TV and radar use.

Seventy-five boys and girls, ranging in

age from infancy through adolescence, are enrolled in the institute. The students come from all over the United States and from foreign countries. They are usually "graduated" back to the hospital or clinic near their home for continued treatment and training.

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CHEMISTRY

Chemical Cause of Ivy Itch Sought in Tests

► ANYONE HAVING an itch to analyze olefinic compounds should find interesting work at Columbia University's department of chemistry where they are taking poison ivy to pieces to see what makes it so mean.

In common with Japanese lac and the liquid from the shells of the cashew nut, poison ivy extract contains several chemicals somewhat related to carbolic acid. Drs. W. F. Symes and C. R. Dawson at Columbia have found that the new method of chromatography allows them to separate these poisonous components and learn what each is made of. The preliminary report appears in *Nature* (May 9).

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SURGERY

Radio-Phosphorus Tells When Bone Grafts Heal

► RADIOACTIVE PHOSPHORUS can help the doctor tell when a bone graft is "taking." Studies showing this were reported by Drs. Clifford L. Kiehn and Donald M. Glover of Cleveland at the meeting of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons in Edgewater Park, Miss.

The new method uses radioactive phosphorus as a tracer. It is injected into the patient immediately after the new piece of bone has been grafted into place. If the graft is successful, the phosphorus will be carried into the graft by the exchange of tissue fluid. Its presence can be readily detected in the graft because of its radioactivity. The amount of phosphorus in the bone increases in proportion to its development of new blood vessels.

The method is expected to be helpful particularly in cases when the graft is taken from a bone bank instead of the patient's own bones.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Doctor of Psychology Degree Is Unrecognized

► IF THE man you plan to take your troubles to has the degree Doctor of Psychology (Ps.D.), beware! He is a charlatan!

This is the warning that will be presented in the *American Psychologist* (June) in an article by Dell Lebo of the psychology department of Florida State University.

No recognized college or university has ever granted the doctor of psychology degree, the article states. Properly qualified clinical psychologists have completed eight years of university training and have a Ph.D. degree in clinical psychology.

The degree of Doctor of Psychology is offered by correspondence schools. They are not necessarily fly-by-night institutions. Many are legally authorized to confer the degrees they offer. Some have been in business for 30 years or more.

A Ps.D. degree will cost the student about \$100. He need have no special educational background in order to enroll. And he can obtain the degree in a comparatively short time (a matter of weeks, perhaps) through an "easy study" course. And he receives an impressive, magnificently sealed diploma which he can have framed and hang on the wall of his consulting room.

One "Institute" offers a very special kind of doctor of psychology degree, the PsDH or doctor of psychology in hypnology. This degree costs \$150 and the student must have completed an earlier course in hypnosis. However, for convenience, the material of the earlier course is included in the material of the PsDH course. The student in the PsDH course receives ten lessons and two text books.

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