

STATISTICS

Baby Boom Continues Among College Grads

► THE TREND toward larger families among married college graduates is still continuing, the Population Reference Bureau reports.

For the last eight years, since 1946, the number of babies per graduate has been going up. The increase is greater for men graduates than for women.

"There is even a possibility," says a report in the Population Bulletin, "that members of the class of 1944 will replace themselves in the new generation." Statisticians figure that each graduate must have an average of 2.1 children to be sure that one will live to grow up, marry and have children to carry on the chain unbroken.

The low was reached by men graduates in the class of 1922 with 1.70 children per graduate; by women in the class of 1926 with 1.18.

For many years in the United States the tendency among white women of child-bearing age has been for those with the most education to have the fewest children. The figure in 1940 was 1.23 for college graduates as compared with 4.33 for women who had not gone beyond fourth grade.

The institution leading in number of children per graduate, for men of both the class 1944 and the class 1929 and women for the class 1929, is Brigham Young University in Utah. But this university is out-distanced by the 1944 women graduates of St. Mary's College in Indiana.

The increasing fertility of recent college graduates is attributed to an improvement in economic conditions and to changing attitudes toward marriage. In the 20's and early 30's, marriage and birth rates were both low. People were marrying later in life.

Now that it is easier for young couples to set up their home and start families, they are marrying younger. Births are not deferred as often nor as long as they were 15 years ago.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

Insects have as many as 4,000 different muscles.

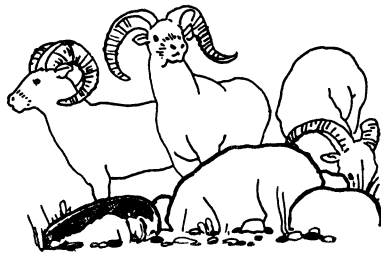
MATH IS FUN

By Joseph Degrazia, Ph.D.

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Mountain Sheep

► MOUNTAIN SHEEP, the native wild sheep of North America, suffer severely from what in Hollywood is a common enough occupational hazard, but which is rarely associated with the sheep family: an excess of good looks.

No panting love-sick ewe, even when the fall mating-season fever grips the flock and Pan is undisputed king, puts a higher valuation on the magnificent head of a mature ram than do certain kinds of trophy-proud, game-hunting bipeds.

The horns are broad and massive, with a bold curving sweep that starts at the forehead and turns on itself almost full circle, upwards, outwards, downwards and gently up again, so that the points are almost on a

PSYCHOLOGY

Individualized Education

► A PLEA for individualized education was made by a Russian delegate to the International Congress of Psychology, Dr. B. M. Teplov of the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of the U.S.S.R. (See p. 389.)

Psychologists from the western nations were surprised by Dr. Teplov's declaration because it seemed so different from the general Communist tendency toward mass treatment.

Dr. Teplov said that the personality type should be taken into account in applying an individualized method to a person's training and education as well as to his character formation and the development of all his intellectual and physical abilities.

However, his conclusion that individual temperament is distinctive and demands individual treatment is based on research, not on heredity, but on conditioned reflexes acquired during the lifetime.

People differ in the speed with which they acquire conditioned reflexes, Dr. Teplov found. Some types of reflexes are formed more readily than others, depending on the personality.

Dr. Teplov described experiments for reducing the sensitivity of the eye to light by

level with the eyes. This lovely downward spiral has been one of the causes of the mountain sheep's sharp numerical reduction.

Were a census of Bighorns to include not only the diminishing flocks scattered throughout the Rockies from Mexico to Canada, but also the stuffed heads on sportsmen's walls, the population would doubtless come to a healthy total. But subtracting the non-productive wall trophies, the survival situation is pretty shaky.

The severe decline of the Bighorn throughout the southern half of its natural range is only partially the fault of over-hunting. Disease has taken a heavy toll. Even more drastic has been the taking over of the native habitat as pasturage for domestic sheep. Where sheep-grazing land is limited, man is sure to sponsor the interests of the money-making domestic sheep at the expense of the picturesque but un-economic wild variety.

Except for rigidly controlled hunting seasons in Idaho and Wyoming—where bag limits are carefully set to keep the mountain sheep population in healthy balance with local forage capacity—the animals are no longer fair game in this country. But despite severe penalties for unlawfully taking mountain sheep, a certain amount of head hunting still goes on.

Among professional wildlife managers, out-of-season, excessive or gluttonous hunting always arouses the keenest contempt, but lawless depredations committed against Bighorns seem to offend some special sentiment or passion.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

means of conditioned reflexes. When the eye is adapted to darkness and then a light is turned on for a few seconds and simultaneously a noise is sounded, after a number of repetitions the sensitiveness of the eye to light will be reduced just from the sound alone.

This, Dr. Teplov explained, is an example of a positive conditioned reflex. There is another type of conditioned reflex, a negative reflex, which serves the opposite purpose—as an inhibitor.

The speed with which a person acquires a positive conditioned reflex as compared with the speed of forming a negative conditioned reflex shows the predominance of excitation over inhibition, or the reverse, in his higher nervous system.

Individual differences in this regard have great practical importance to the educator and also to the physician, Dr. Teplov indicated.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

Parking and speeding problems are often as serious to small communities of less than 10,000 population as are the same problems to larger cities.