

mercaptans. They are among the vilest smelling substances known.

A common procedure to rid gasoline of these chemicals is to add an inhibitor and caustic, and then age the mixture before the gas is sold.

The scientists studied the sweetening process for the Tide Water Associated Oil Co. at Associated, Calif., and came up with a new process. They propose adding a small amount of a sodium and lead oxide compound, called doctor solution, to the gasoline-caustic solution and injecting air to the mixture.

This, they said, would not only speed the reaction that destroys the mercaptans, but it would also reduce the amount of peroxides formed. Peroxides, they found, produce a substance in gasoline that dirties engines.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

#### PSYCHOLOGY

## Girls as Bright as Men On Mechanical Problems

► WOMEN ARE just as clever as men in solving a mechanical problem such as locating a defect in a gear train, a report to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Berkeley, Calif., indicated.

However, worry in either a man or a woman does make a difference in solving the problem, Dr. Edmund V. Mech of the University of Oklahoma, and Drs. Nicholas A. Fattu and Ervin Kapos of Indiana University, have found.

Individuals who are less anxious, they found, are the ones who have the advantage in finding correct solutions to the gear train problem.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

#### PSYCHOLOGY

## Teen-Age Sex Hysteria

► TEEN-AGE TROUBLES, ranging from increased numbers of illegitimate babies to attempted suicides by girls unhappy over the size and shape of their bosoms, was blamed on sex hysteria "which is a calculated instrument of modern journalism and so-called entertainment trends."

The charge came from Dr. Goodrich C. Schaffler of Portland, Ore. Speaking at the Sixth American Congress on Obstetrics and Gynecology in Chicago, he also blamed the teen-agers' difficulties on "increasingly loose practices, bad examples and lack of supervision in parental and home influences; liquor, narcotics, automobiles, auto courts; and finally the gang influences which combine these elements and tend, in certain groups, almost to enforce premarital sex practices."

He reported that anomalies of the breast in childhood and adolescence are seen often.

"These call for more attention from the physician in the present age because of ac-

#### GENERAL SCIENCE

## Interlingua Written

► DOZENS OF people in many different countries have learned to write Interlingua, the world language, even though no classes in this language have yet been offered in any school.

A survey of correspondence at the offices of the Interlingua Division of Science Service in New York shows that in the last 18 months letters written in Interlingua have been received from 64 persons in 15 countries.

Dr. Alexander Gode and Hugh E. Blair, who are introducing Interlingua into worldwide use, explain that many of these writers of Interlingua attained their proficiency without use of textbooks.

A free information kit is sent out by the Interlingua Division, 80 E. 11th St., New York, upon request. It contains specimens of the language and grammatical rules that allow a person to write the language, which is based on existing languages of the western world.

A newspaper man who had received a copy of "Interlingua a Prime Vista," the book that gives a picture introduction to Interlingua, wrote a review of the book in excellent Interlingua. An editor in Venezuela who had received the information kit wrote an article on Interlingua for a newspaper in Caracas. The article included a long passage in Interlingua which he wrote himself. As a result many people in Venezuela became interested in the language.

A physicist in Chicago has taught himself Interlingua and uses it to publish an internationally circulated technical bulletin on his specialty, molecular spectroscopy. Bulle-

tins are also published in France and Denmark by people who have taught themselves Interlingua.

Though comparatively few have tried their hand at writing Interlingua, thousands have found that they read it with ease. Millions who have not yet tried it have linguistic backgrounds that enable them to understand it the first time they see it.

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