

CARDIOLOGY

Heart Attack Victim Can Co-Pilot Plane

► ONE HEART ATTACK need not bar a man from military service or even from copiloting a plane, Lt. Col. Philip G. Keil, USAF, and Dr. Leon V. McVay Jr. of the 3810th USAF Hospital, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., reported at the American Medical Association meeting in Chicago.

The man who can and should go back to active duty after a heart attack, in their opinion, is the one who has recovered completely, has no symptoms on moderate activity, has a normal sized heart and normal blood circulation.

To restrict the activity of such a man or make an invalid of him may shorten his life as well as reduce his usefulness. If he remains free of symptoms and his heart shows no further damage six months after the attack, he could be returned to flying status as a crew member or as a pilot in primary control in a dual control aircraft with another qualified pilot.

Science News Letter, June 30, 1956

ACOUSTICS

Typewriter Writes From Spoken Words

► THE BOSS of the future may dictate his letters directly to a phonetic typewriter or speech writer that will type out his words in conventional letters.

A model of such a voice-operated typewriter was described at the meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and the Second International Commission on Acoustics Congress in Cambridge, Mass., by Dr. Harry F. Olson and Herbert Belar of the David Sarnoff Research Center, RCA Laboratories, Princeton, N. J.

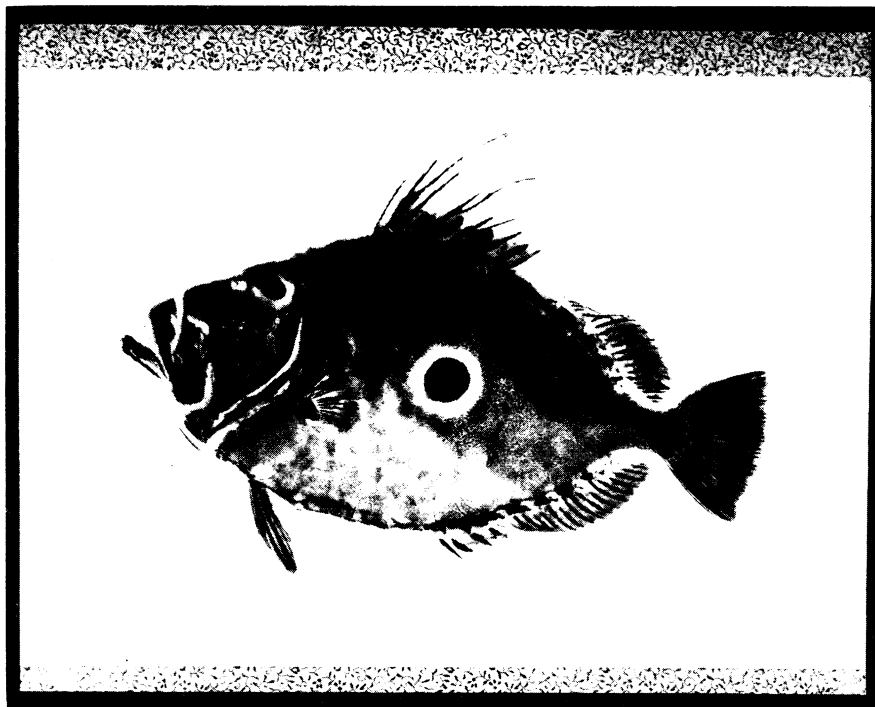
Such a model has already been constructed and has a vocabulary of ten common English words, including "Are see a." It types from dictation with 80% accuracy which, Dr. Olson comments, is "probably as good as the average secretary."

In another report of a "speech writer," Dr. Yuen Ren Chao of the Department of Oriental Languages, University of California, Berkeley, discussed the linguistics.

First step, Dr. Chao indicated, was to analyze speech in terms of "formants." Next problem was the conversion of the energy of speech sounds into a series of visual tokens whose number of types is of the same order as the number of different symbols in a written language.

Developing a machine that will type speech involved the following important factors, Dr. Olson and Mr. Belar told the meeting: the particular form in which the words are typed, the means for analyzing the sounds of speech, identification of the analyzed sounds, translating the sounds into impulses for actuating the machine, and finally design of the mechanism for operating the typewriter.

Science News Letter, June 30, 1956



A JAPANESE "GYOTAKU"—A John Dory fish, this representation is the handiwork of the artist-ichthyologist, Yukoku Shimizu of the organization called Gyotaku-no-Kai, meaning Friends of Fish Print, in Japan. A Gyotaku is an impression taken of an actual fish, and often proves more useful to scientists than a photograph. In this case, fine, wet rice paper was placed over the fish, then ink or paint was applied to the paper. An exhibit of Gyotaku is on view at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

ANTHROPOLOGY

"Abominable Snowman"

► THE "ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN," legendary creature of the Himalayan peaks, is probably really the Himalayan red bear, Dr. William L. Straus Jr., anthropologist of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, reports in *Science* (June 8).

The "abominable snowman" is known only through travelers' tales and gigantic manlike footprints left in the snow at heights of from 10,000 to 21,000 feet above sea level.

"It must be emphasized," Dr. Straus states, "that there is no record of any 'snowman' ever having been captured—either alive or dead—or even photographed."

The animal footprint most commonly mistaken for that of man, he suggests, is that of the bear. There are three varieties of bear in the Himalayan region, black, brown and red. The red bear is known to walk on its hind legs like a man and, when erect, is said to be as tall or taller than a tall man.

A factor in the start of the "abominable snowman" legends is due to a mistranslation of Tibetan words by foreigners. The Himalayan red bear is known locally as mi-te. Himalayan expeditionists have mistranslated the word mi-te as abominable,

filthy, dirty. The word actually means "man-bear." Another name for the animal is kangmi, which has been translated as "snowman."

"Abominable snowman" has been derived from the combination of the two mistranslated words, "mitch-kangmi."

The size of the great footprints has been exaggerated and distorted by the melting of the snow around the edges and by the action of wind.

According to the Rev. Swami Pranananda, who has made a study of the giant footprints, the red bear is not the only mammal that frequently makes excursions far onto the snow fields and glaciers, apparently in search of food.

The wild yak, Tibetan wild horse, lynx, snow leopard, wolf, ibex, bhawal, ghural, Tibetan antelope, musk-deer, and other animals do likewise, for vegetation can occur up to an altitude of 20,000 feet or more.

Science News Letter, June 30, 1956

There is no known cure for *hog cholera*.

The worst enemy of the sport fisherman in the United States today is plain mud.