



OPERATION SHAKEDOWN—A major study of vibration effects on human beings will be made on this machine. Stuart Tray of Bostrom Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee, Wis., sits atop a vibrating platform that duplicates the ride motion of any type of vehicle. During the metabolism test, he breathes pure oxygen through a nose tube, while the cylinder at left measures the amount. An electronic pick-up mounted on his belt transmits his vibration pattern to the recorder partly shown at right. William Oswald checks measurements and controls the vibration rate during the test.

PSYCHIATRY

Money Good Medicine

➤ MONEY is good medicine for the recovering mental patient, Dr. Peter A. Peffer, manager of the Veterans Administration Hospital, Brockton, Mass., reports in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* (July).

A bridge spanning the gap between protected hospital life and life on the "outside" where the former patient must hold down a job, shoulder responsibilities for himself and his family, and get along with other people is provided by a "member-employee" program.

The program, initiated at the VA Hospital, Perry Point, Md., is now being used at 15 other VA hospitals throughout the nation.

Under this new program, the patient is given a job suited to his abilities and the needs of the hospital. He lives and works in the hospital grounds, but is paid for his services, receiving between \$657 and \$821 per year plus living quarters, subsistence, laundry and medical and dental care.

His supervisor is considerate and understanding, at least at first, but if he comes to work late, he is docked. He is allowed no more than one-half hour for lunch. He is expected to work a full day and is not allowed unauthorized absences.

His leisure time is his own and he can

come and go as he pleases and is expected to make and keep friends.

Such a "half-way house" is necessary for the recovering mental patient, especially for those who have been ill a long time. Patients hospitalized a long time become "institutionalized." They are comfortable in the hospital setting and routine, and operate on a fairly efficient level. Once put out on their own in the community, however, they become frightened and cannot get along.

Of 345 patients put on the "member-employee" program, 88 have been discharged to the community. Almost all of these were chronic patients who apparently could not have been discharged otherwise.

Of the 345, 90 patients had to be readmitted to the hospital, and 167 are still on the program.

It is far less costly, Dr. Peffer says, to readmit a patient to the hospital from the member-employee program than from the outside community, and it is far less damaging to the patient. He is not so discouraged by the experience and he does not have to go through humiliating conditions that often include adverse publicity and public attention.

Science News Letter, August 4, 1956

ECOLOGY

Throwing Back Small Ones Might Not Pay

➤ KEEPING UNDERSIZED FISH caught from ponds and lakes is good business, a study made on the fish population in Ridge Lake, Ill., shows.

The Illinois Natural History Survey reports 9,000 small bass have been removed from the 18-acre lake since it was stocked in 1941, and 152,000 small bluegills have been removed since 1943.

Yet the lake still has more fish than at any time since it was stocked. Fishermen have caught 6,720 bass ranging from one-half to seven pounds in weight and 14,476 bluegills weighing from one-quarter to three-quarters of a pound.

The study was begun in 1941 when the lake was stocked with 100 adult bass and 335 yearlings. In 1943, the impoundment was stocked with 129 breeder bluegills. Since then, the lake has been drained every two years and all fish too small to keep have been removed.

Science News Letter, August 4, 1956

BIOLOGY

Water Strider Also Known as Wherryman

See Front Cover

➤ THE WATER STRIDER, often seen skimming over the surface of pools and quiet streams, is also known as the wherryman.

Shown on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is the larger water strider, *Gerris remigis* (Saye), of the order Hemiptera. It is common on shaded pools and smaller streams from Labrador across the continent to the Pacific and south to Georgia, Texas, Mexico and Central America, reports Dr. R. I. Sailer of the entomological research branch of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

It feeds on other insects that chance to fall or alight on the water and occasionally may nip the bare legs of wading children or bathers.

The water strider's cylindrical, pearly-white eggs are laid end to end along the edges of grass or other vegetation growing in the water. In a week or ten days, the eggs hatch and the nymphs join their parents in the pools. During the six weeks required to attain adult stage, the young shed their skins five times.

Over much of the United States, there may be three or more generations during the summer.

With the first frost of fall, the adults of the last generation seek shelter along stream banks under logs or stones or in dry crevices, where they remain until after the spring floods have subsided.

Then they emerge to mate and repeat the cycle.

Science News Letter, August 4, 1956