

GERONTOLOGY

Advice for Retired Women

► SINCE ONE-FOURTH to one-fifth of a person's life these days may be lived in so-called retirement, meaning after retirement from a job, it is important to plan ahead how that time will be spent.

Some suggestions on this were given at the meeting of the American Home Economics Association as follows:

1. Decide what values are most important to you.
2. Do not break all old ties too suddenly.
3. Be cautious about changing climates.
4. Cultivate quiet interests.
5. Limit your range of physical activities.
6. Decide whether it is worthwhile to keep up a home.

The suggestions came from Mrs. Isabel B. LaFollette, wife of the former governor of Wisconsin. She described three Women's Exchange Services she was instrumental in establishing in Wisconsin a few years ago. The exchanges find part-time jobs, chiefly for the older women in the community who want or need remunerative work outside their homes.

The idea is an adaptation of the widely known Women's Exchanges for cooking and handiwork. The Service Exchanges offer counseling as well as job placement, and have been highly successful.

The majority of the women enrolled in the Madison Exchange are in the age group of 35 to 55.

"On the whole, age has not been a problem in placing applicants, since most of the women have been adaptable and realistic in meeting employment demands," Mrs. LaFollette reported. "As elsewhere in the country, we can never supply enough office workers, but we have succeeded in gradually building up what I call the personal service occupations — practical nursing, housekeeping, pinch-hitting for the mother."

More women could be encouraged to take homemaking positions where they are so badly needed if the prestige of jobs of this sort were higher, Mrs. LaFollette believes.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

AERONAUTICS

Early Warning Radar Plane for Research

► THE U. S. NAVY'S newest early warning radar plane looks like a flying saucer that captured an airplane.

The research aircraft is a Navy WV-2 Super Constellation to which a large, disk-shaped parasol, more than 30 feet across, is attached. This is the radome, housing the distance-determining radar antenna.

First tests of the new plane will involve dashes down the runway at Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's terminal, Burbank, Calif. These runs are to evaluate aerodynamic characteristics of the disk and its effect, if any, on stability and control of the aircraft.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

ORNITHOLOGY

"Lost Soul's" Lament Ascribed to Jungle Bird

► INDIANS call it "the lost soul," but Smithsonian Institution scientists say the eerie cry comes from a seldom-seen bird related to the North American whippoorwill.

The sorrowful cry rends the night air at the Smithsonian Institution's tropical preserve, raising gooseflesh on visitors. Natives on Barro Colorado Island in Gatun

Lake, location of the Panama Canal Zone preserve, call the bird "alma perdida," the lost soul.

The late Dr. Frank M. Chapman, noted ornithologist with the American Museum of Natural History, said he "never heard such a human sound from a brute before." The cry has been described as "a woman's voice, a deep, mellow contralto calling in hopeless grief."

A Balboa woman said when she heard it she thought a neighbor's wife was being beaten.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

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