

GERIATRICS

America Is Backward in Caring for Oldsters

➤ AMERICA is a backward country when it comes to providing a stimulating social environment for people who retire at 65, Dr. Benjamin Boshes, Northwestern University Medical School, told the annual clinical conference of the Chicago Medical Society meeting in Chicago.

"Too few men have the ability for full-time recreation. They do not know how to play. They are much better equipped to work. When their occupation, which is actually their recreation, is taken away from them, they are literally lost," he said.

Enforced retirement frequently brings a loss of direction and motivation, and may cause disturbances which are in no way related to the actual physical aging of the body, Dr. Boshes reported.

"The outcome is considerable deterioration of personality, frequently a depressive reaction, and with it a tremendous acceleration in the aging process," he said.

What appears to be a "dementing process" in an older man or woman is frequently a mental reaction which disconnects the person from reality. There is a loss of attention and interest and the individuals are unable to work out a new pursuit for themselves.

But careful evaluation shows little organic loss and, with proper care, the person can be often brought back into reality, he reported.

Science News Letter, April 13, 1957

METEOROLOGY

Picture How Hurricane Continues to Swirl

➤ A PICTURE of how a hurricane obtains its energy to keep swirling has been drawn mathematically, the American Meteorological Society was told at its meeting in Chicago.

The model devised by Dr. Jule Charney, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., has winds with velocities increasing toward the center but relatively quiet in the storm's eye, as they are in real hurricanes. These winds have speeds up to 100 miles an hour both in reality and when calculated using Dr. Charney's mathematical formula.

His model also accounts for the warm temperatures found in the hurricane's center, Dr. Norman Phillips, also of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, reported. He presented Dr. Charney's results at the meeting.

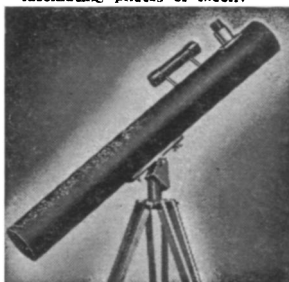
Source of the energy driving a hurricane is the heat of condensation of rising air. This heat is removed by friction with the earth's surface and by turbulence within the storm. The addition and removal of heat, as well as the motions and velocities of the hurricane, are all related to each other, Dr. Charney's study showed.

Science News Letter, April 13, 1957

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