

PSYCHOLOGY

### Forgetting Found Due To Lapse of Time

► FRESH EVIDENCE to support the theory that forgetting is due to the decay of memory with the passage of time is reported in the British scientific journal *Nature* (April 20) by Dr. R. Conrad of the Applied Psychology Research Unit, Medical Research Council, at Cambridge, England.

In Dr. Conrad's experiment, 30 subjects listened to numbers with eight digits recorded on tape at a rate of either 30 or 90 digits per minute. At the end of each series of digits, a timing device was started which clicked loudly at the same rate the digits had been given. Each subject was required to write down the number he had just heard, one digit at a time in step with the clicks.

Trebling the time lapse doubled the number of digits forgotten. When the subjects were allowed to repeat the digits at their own rate without the timer, the best memory score was obtained.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957

CHEMISTRY

### Find New Process for Making Anti-Knock Gas

► A COMPLETELY NEW process for making tetraethyl lead, the chemical anti-knock additive used in gasoline to raise its octane count, was presented at the American Chemical Society meeting in Miami.

The method, reported by S. M. Blitzer of the Ethyl Corporation, means that tetraethyl lead can now be synthesized from a wide range of organometallic compounds in combination with many common lead compounds.

"Probably the most significant discovery is that lead sulfide, lead oxide and lead dioxide react with organometallic compounds to form tetraethyl lead," Mr. Blitzer reported.

The research team responsible for the discovery included Mr. Blitzer, T. H. Pearson, D. R. Carley, T. W. McKay, R. L. Ray, L. L. Sims and J. R. Zietz of the Ethyl Corporation.

Science News Letter, May 4, 1957

## Do You Know?

An ingenious device keeps *jet engines* from picking foreign objects off the ground by a downward directed jet of air which prevents the formation of the vortex responsible for sucking up materials.

Among the nation's 17,000,000 children under six, *accidents* cause more deaths than disease.

More students are preparing for *engineering careers* in 1957 than at any time since 1948.

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