

MANPOWER

Womanpower Increases

The number of women that are entering the labor force is growing. Today one in three workers is a woman and the proportion is expected to increase.

► A "SILENT REVOLUTION" is going on in the United States with regard to the place of women in the working world. And the proportion of women in the labor force can be expected to increase greatly in the near future.

The great change in the role of women was revealed by a two-year study of "Womanpower" made by the National Manpower Council of Columbia University. It is reported to the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* (April) by Dr. Eli Ginzberg, director of Staff Studies of the Council.

As many as 28,000,000 women were in paid employment at some time during 1955, the Council found.

This means that one out of every three workers is a woman. The proportion is expected to increase. It is estimated that in the decade 1955 to 1965, the labor force of the U. S. will have to increase by 10,000,000 if the economy is to maintain a rapid rate of advance. Since most men are already employed, such an increase can come about only if 5,000,000 additional women enter the labor force.

But the entry of so many women into the working force of the nation does not mean

that women are deserting the home. Three out of five of the women who worked in 1955 were married, Dr. Ginzberg reports. And approximately 40% of all the mothers in the country with children below the age of 18 were in the labor force. Some 3,000,000 mothers with children below school age were working.

Working women were by no means mainly young girls filling in time until the right man comes along. Just about half the women who work are 40 years old or older.

More women than ever before in American history are getting married, about 93 out of every 100. They are marrying younger; 20 years old is the median age.

Women outlive men by an average of six to seven years and marry men three years older than themselves. Thus they must anticipate a period of widowhood of about ten years.

For the first 14 years of life, the schooling of a girl is virtually the same as for a boy. But in high school the parallelism is likely to end. Teachers and counselors advise girls to prepare themselves for cleri-

cal or sales jobs, or if they plan to go on to college, for teaching or social work.

Science News Letter, July 5, 1958

ROCKETS AND MISSILES

X-7 Withstands Higher Speeds, Heights

► A NEW AND HOTTER version of the record-breaking X-7 recoverable missile has been developed ahead of schedule, the Lockheed Missile Systems, Van Nuys, Calif., has announced.

Able to withstand higher speed and altitude demands because of reinforced structures, the new version includes these advances in design:

1. Ability to carry four different types of ramjet engines,
2. Autopilot that responds to commands in one-sixteenth of a second, twice as fast as older X-7,
3. Advanced camera instrumentation permitting twice as much film coverage, and
4. Underwing boosters allowing ground as well as air launches.

Science News Letter, July 5, 1958

MEDICINE

Coronary Occlusion Can Occur at Almost Any Time

► THE OLD SAYING "hard work will never kill you" received some scientific support at the American College of Chest Physicians meeting in San Francisco.

A study of hundreds of patients who had suffered a coronary occlusion showed that only two percent of the attacks could be associated with severe exertion, Dr. Arthur M. Master, consultant cardiologist at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, reported.

The percentage of attacks that occurred during sleep, rest, mild, moderate or severe activity coincided with the proportion of the day usually spent in these states. The occurrence of coronary occlusion thus seems to be coincidental with what the sufferer is doing when the attack occurs, Dr. Master said.

The fact that only two percent of the attacks could be associated with severe exertion in a time sense has led him to conclude that the attack happened by chance and the severe physical strain either induced pain or aggravated it.

The study also showed coronary occlusion took place with equal frequency in all types of occupation and all classes of society. Perhaps, Dr. Master noted, it occurred slightly more in those occupations of a physically laborious character.

Coronary occlusion, the cardiologist concluded, is the end result of an arteriosclerotic process by which the walls of the arteries harden and it occurs independently of external influences.

"Effort," he said, "is not a factor in its production."

Science News Letter, July 5, 1958

A mysterious and sometimes fatal tuberculosis-like disease, *sarcoidosis*, is linked to the Eastern pine tree.



FAST FLASH—Light from a ten-millionth of a second flash provided the light for this photograph. Indiana University chemistry professor Edward J. Bair (right) and Henry Kramer (left), graduate student, are studying the reactions of gases, particularly burning, that take place in a few thousandths of a second.