

mid-afternoon when the sun is hottest. Then the descent will be made and the landing should be made in the evening.

The great crowd of spectators which will throng famous Soldiers Field to watch the beginning of the flight will get a thrill as the balloon rises. A few hundred yards to the southeast of the starting point there are the 628 foot towers and cables of the Century of Progress skyride and the balloon will be shot up at about twenty miles per hour in order to clear this hazard.

The exact day of the start will depend upon weather conditions. Where the balloon will land will depend on wind directions and other meteorological factors. Even if the magnesium metal sphere drops into one of the Great Lakes, it and its human and scientific freight will be rescued safely because the air-tight ball will float for hours.

Commander Settle has won many balloon races for the Navy, including the international race in Switzerland last year. He is said to be the only man in the world who is licensed to fly a balloon, an airplane, an airship the size of the U. S. S. Macon and a glider. One of his feats was a descent from the airship Los Angeles in a small glider. He crossed the Atlantic on the Graf Zeppelin as Navy observer. One of his most perilous experiences was a wild balloon ride in 1928 during the national races, when an electrical storm killed two other pilots and jeopardized Commander Settle and other contestants.

The Navy is lending Commander Settle to the Century of Progress exhibition for the stratosphere flight.

Science News Letter, May 27, 1933

MAN: DUST OR DESTINY?

by

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Friday, June 2, at 1:45 p.m. Eastern Standard Time over stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Each week a prominent scientist speaks over the Columbia System under the auspices of Science Service.

PSYCHOLOGY

Scientists Penetrate Unknown Surrounding Newborn Babies

They Find That Very Young Babies Smell Flower and Other Odors and Know When Light Dims or Brightens

CAN THE BABY just arrived in this world smell the flowers banked in mother's room or the less agreeable odor of disinfectant on the hospital floors.

Yes, he can, it appears from experiments reported to the Midwestern Psychological Association meeting at Ames, Iowa, last week by Dorothy R. Disher of Ohio State University. Her research is still in progress under the direction of Dr. F. C. Dockeyay.

Psychologists have been hampered in all attempts to find out exactly how sensitive the newborn is to what is going on about him. The child cannot tell what he sees, hears, smells, or feels. The scientist can find out only by the most indirect means.

Miss Disher gets around this obstacle by making the experiment when the baby is sleeping. She then lets him smell an odor of a definite quality and strength and measures the activity which results. Moving pictures taken at the same time record all the kicks and jerks, puckers of the face, movements of the head, and so on.

No race, sex, or age differences were noticed in this experiment, but it did seem as though the right nostril may be more sensitive than the left. Considerable difference was found between individuals.

Even very young babies from one to ten days old can notice the difference between dim light and moderately bright illumination and demonstrate that fact by a reduction in activity in the stronger light. The newborn is much more keenly aware of his surroundings than has been realized, the psychologists learned from a report of LaBerta Weiss, of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station.

The ingenious method devised by Miss Weiss for revealing what the baby can see and hear is that of recording the movements of the child. A machine appropriately called a stabilimeter records each little wriggle, squirm, and jerk of the tiny body.

These movements are consistently

stronger in the dimmer illuminations, Miss Weiss found, and are reduced in direct proportion to the intensity of the light turned on.

Similar effects resulted from exposing the babies to noises of about the intensity of a vacuum cleaner and of an average motor truck.

These results showed that newborn babies can differentiate between moderate and dim lighting and between comparative silence and moderately loud noise.

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GEOLOGY

Petroleum Said to Come From Garbage of Sea

PETROLEUM, now one of the principal wealths, was originally garbage—offal from the endless complex banquet of the sea, that not even the bacteria in the bottom slime would eat.

This un-pretty picture of the origin of "black gold" comes from a report presented at the meeting of the American Petroleum Institute in Tulsa, Okla., last week by Dr. Parker D. Trask of the U. S. Geological Survey. Dr. Trask and his associates have for a number of years been conducting an exhaustive study of both modern and ancient sea-bottom deposits, seeking for further knowledge of how petroleum was formed in the first place, so that seekers after oil may have a better idea of what kinds of geological formations are likely to yield paying results to their expensive drillings.

They found that fine-grained beds contain more organic matter than coarse-grained: clay more than silt, silt more than sand. They learned, as was to be expected, that where the sea bottom is rolling and irregular, richer deposits are to be found in the hollows than on the submarine hilltops or slopes. They found, above all, that the dead bodies of the myriad sea plants that escaped eating by fish and other marine animals were not left as raw materials