

PSYCHIATRY

**War News and Hysteria
Frighten U. S. Children**

AMERICAN children are showing more fright and worry over war than British children who have stood war's actual dangers, Dr. Harvie D. Coghill of the Medical College of Virginia told the American Academy of Pediatrics meeting in Richmond. Dr. Coghill advised child specialists and psychiatrists to begin a home defense program by helping parents to realize need for calmness.

An army of frightened children is being produced here in America, he said, as a result of listening for hours to the radio war news broadcasts plus the hysteria of parents. These children, he reported, show more evidences of anxiety states than English refugee children who have gone through bombings.

Dr. Coghill, who is director of the Children's Memorial Clinic and assistant professor of pediatrics and neuropsychiatry at the Medical College of Virginia, pointed out that mental hazards of war are greatly increased for children in our time. The home may be a theater of the conflict and whole families suffer.

An attempt is being made now, he said, to appraise the effect of the first World War on children's minds and personalities. Cases of mental upsets and personality influences traced to that era have been studied in the past 17 years by the clinic of which he is director.

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ZOOLOGY

**Incredible Animals
Described in New Book**

DO YOU believe in the sea-serpent, the unicorn, the basilisk? Of course not. They are all weird superstitions of an earlier and more credulous age.

But do you believe in the okapi, the lungfish, the duckbilled platypus? Be you never so skeptical, you've got to: they actually exist; specimens can be seen in museums and even alive in zoological parks and aquariums.

How narrow the line that separates creatures incredible and unreal from others that are incredible but real is brought out strongly in a new book, "The Lungfish and the Unicorn," by Willy Ley. (*Reviewed, SNL, this issue.*) It tells in some detail the story of the discovery of some of them, like the okapi and the lungfish; also of the "badak tanggiling," a fairly well-attested species

of one-horned rhinoceros which has been shot and photographed on the island of Sumatra but of which no living specimen has ever been captured. This rhinoceros may be "discovered" any day—or it may never be seen again.

Nor must it be imagined that skepticism over such things as basilisks, kings of all serpents, whose very breath was poison, is of recent origin. Away back in the sixteenth century, when belief in them was rife, the Swiss naturalist Konrad Gesner thundered against them as "women's gossip and false nonsense," and he detected and denounced the fake monsters known as "Jenny Hanivers," made out of dried skates or rays and exhibited to crowds of the credulous.

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ICHTHYOLOGY

**Fly Larvae Good Remedy
For Anemia in Trout**

TROUT can develop anemia if they do not get the right things to eat, and one of the best treatments for this anemia is to give the fish the larvae of ordinary houseflies, it is announced in the new issue of *Science* by A. M. Phillips and Clive M. McCay of the New York State Conservation Department, located at Cornell University. (*Science*, April 11.)

Previous research had shown that trout anemia can be effectively treated with fresh liver. Further experiments along this line demonstrated that the liver extracts now used in treating human anemias were as effective as the liver itself. However, the fly larvae proved to be even better remedy than the liver-extract capsules.

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ENGINEERING

**Novel Steam Locomotive
Invented in Germany**

A NOVEL type of steam locomotive, with two small cylinders in a V-type mounting to turn each drive wheel instead of the two single big cylinders on each side coupled to all the drive wheels with a connecting rod, has just been granted U. S. patent 2,237,728. Thus, an engine with four drive wheels would have eight cylinders on a side, two above each wheel. In effect, each pair of wheels connected by its axle constitutes a separate, four-cylinder engine.

The inventor is a German, Ulrich Barske, of Kassel-Harleshausen, who has assigned his patent rights to the firm of Henschel und Sohn, of Kassel.

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IN SCIEN

MEDICINE

**New Anti-Rabies Vaccine
Protects with Small Doses**

DOGS can be protected against rabies by means of a new type of vaccine, given in doses smaller than those necessary with anti-rabies vaccines hitherto in use. The new vaccine, in which cultured rabies virus is treated with formalin, was developed at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem by Dr. I. J. Kligler and Dr. H. Bernkopf. (*Science*, April 18.)

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ARCHAEOLOGY

**Spanish Chain Mail
Unearthed in Kansas**

UNEARTHING badly-rusted Spanish chain mail in Kansas, Dr. Waldo R. Wedel of the Smithsonian Institution is very warm on the trail of long-lost supposedly rich Gran Quivera, where Coronado's treasure-hunting army made its farthest march for gold.

The object identified as chain mail is a mass of badly rusted inter-locked iron rings. Dr. Wedel made the discovery while excavating a council circle of Indians in central Kansas, near the great bend of the Arkansas River.

Examining the fireplaces, post holes, and trash containing distinctive pottery, stone and bone tools, charred corn and fruit pits, as well as Indian objects which the Indians must have got by trade from long distances, Dr. Wedel also discovered a very few glass and iron fragments which mean that white men or their goods were new to these Indians. Dr. Wedel concludes that he has investigated a site inhabited in the sixteenth or early seventeenth century, in the early period of Spanish exploration.

Archaeologists generally believe, he says, that inhabitants of Gran Quivera, who so disappointed the Spanish dream of finding natives of vast wealth, were Wichita Indians. Several large village sites are near the excavated council circle.

"Further studies," says Dr. Wedel, "may strengthen the growing suspicion that they are of Wichita origin and possibly represent some of the Quivera villages seen by Coronado."

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CE FIELDS

NUTRITION

Manganese Necessary for Vitamin C in Tomatoes

MANGANESE, chemical necessary for tough steel and tender mother-love, has now been shown to be needed for the proper proportion of ascorbic acid (vitamin C) in your pre-breakfast tomato juice. Dr. Jackson B. Hester, agricultural chemist for the Campbell Soup Company, tells of the discovery that tomatoes raised on soils low in manganese are low in this necessary food element while tomatoes from high-manganese soils have plenty of the vitamin. (*Science*, April 25)

In a pot culture experiment, Dr. Hester found that addition of one part of manganese sulfate to 15,000 parts of one type of soil almost doubled the vitamin C content of tomatoes grown in it. The task now is to find out how much manganese is safe to apply to any given tomato field, for although a certain minimum of the element has been proven necessary, an excess of it is already known to be poisonous to plants.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Who Lived in Ur of the Chaldees Before Flood?

SWAPPING one mystery for another, archaeologists, who unearthed evidence that a mighty Flood did wash over Bible country at Ur of the Chaldees, as ancient reports said, are now trying to identify the pre-Flood inhabitants of Ur.

Clues indicating that pre-Flood and post-Flood inhabitants of Ur in the 4000-3000 B.C. era were different were described by Dr. Leon Legrain of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, who spoke at the Catholic Anthropological Conference at Villanova, Pa. Dr. Legrain was one of the excavators of famous Ur.

Burials of pre-Flood people at Ur have revealed skeletons resting on their backs with hands crossed in front, while post-Flood people differently buried their dead in a contracted pose, Dr. Legrain said.

Babylonian tradition insisted that all

civilization was brought to the earliest people of their land by a mysterious being from the sea, who taught them to write and gave them their religion and art, Dr. Legrain stated. This clue links with the fact that no sign of writing on clay has been found at Ur in pre-Flood layers, but after the Flood, Sumerian writing, and religion as well, were well established at Ur and extended later far northward through Mesopotamia.

Whether Ur, which over a thousand years later became the home town of Abraham about 2000 B.C., had Sumerians for its early people before and after the Flood, or whether Sumerians invaded after the Flood a land that had been held by other races, Japhetite, Semitic, or Subaean, is a question Dr. Legrain posed as still waiting for scholars to answer.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Capt. Smith's Town Studied By Government Scientist

AMERICA'S venerated site of Jamestown, Va., heretofore belonging to historians to explain, has been taken over by archaeologists, and the result is a unique piece of scientific research. Jamestown celebrates the 334th anniversary of arrival of English settlers, May 13.

Where once only the ruined brick church tower stood to show Americans a glimpse of the first permanent English settlement in the United States, now remains of about 18 major buildings have been brought to light by excavation, J. C. Harrington, National Park Service archaeologist, reports.

Quantities of clay pipes, glass bottles, kitchen and dining ware and other actual objects used by men, women, and children in old Jamestown—including doubtless some handled by Capt. John Smith, himself—are accumulating from the careful digging. These show what archaeologists call the "degree of cultural attainment of the period."

Mr. Harrington is even sorting out in sequence types of articles that generations of Virginia colonists used, as the colony grew from a wooden fort in 1607 to the impressive principal town and capital of the colony. Exactly as the typical handwork of prehistoric people is used as a clue to their antiquity, so things buried in Jamestown under plowed ground can be compared with similar objects from other colonial sites. It is hoped that this will enable archaeologists to date other, less well-known settlements occupied since 1607.

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AERONAUTICS

Mesh "Spider Web" Reveals Propeller Faults

See Front Cover

A WIRE mesh "spider web" mounted in back of warplane propellers as they are tested reveals faults in balance which would affect their efficiency as they pull their ships through the air at speeds of 400 miles per hour or more.

Of the several kinds of unbalance, one of the most elusive is the aerodynamic type. If the propeller blades have slight variations in pitch, each one pulls the air through at a different speed.

The wire mesh disk, shown on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as set up in the Hamilton Standard propeller plant, reveals these defects. If all blades are the same, air pressure is steady, and the disk remains motionless. Unbalance causes it to flutter, to an extent measured by electrical recording instruments.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Warns of Demoralization Which Follows Aggression

CIVILIZED nations which fall prey to Axis powers can expect the same fate that empire-builders meted to primitive natives of the jungle, is the warning sounded before the American Anthropological Association.

Emphasizing the danger to democracies of floundering amid confused thinking on issues and aims, Dr. Melville J. Herskovits of Northwestern University urged that anthropologists help clarify the inner values of our culture.

"A striking resemblance is to be discerned," he stated, "between the manner in which imperial governments set up their protectorates in Africa, the South Seas, and elsewhere and the methods employed in furthering the spread of totalitarian domination in Europe."

The aggressive proselytizing of a foreign power in such cases leads the attacked people to question their long cherished ideals and way of living, he added. And this is a prelude to cultural demoralization.

Dr. Herskovits' advice to Americans in the present world situation is to "reaffirm the values by which we live," for our own guidance, but without insisting that they necessarily rule other folk in the world.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1941