

ECONOMICS

Silk Piling Up in Japan Is Problem For Science

CUT OFF from her best silk customer, the United States, Japan is reported to be piling up silk at the rate of 700 to 800 bales a day—as if caught in some ironic fairytale bewitchment in which riches and luxury mount in unwanted profusion.

Quantities of silk turned back from Japan's ports are being relayed to the interior, according to word received here by commerce officials. It is believed that the Japanese silk industry faces serious disorganization, for in addition to loss of the United States silk trade, Europe as a customer is virtually cut off by the Soviet-Nazi conflict.

American women need not picture Japanese women as the glamor girls of this winter, the only ones who are close to plenty of silk for making sheer hose. Actually, an ordinance reported in August sternly told women of the leisure class in Japan that they did not need stockings at all, and that the rationing system would give preference to working women in buying any kind of hosiery.

Besides reducing cocoon production, Japanese officials and scientists are casting about for various remedies for the silk dilemma. Rise of rayon and nylon had already spelled warnings to Japan that the silk industry, which is a mainstay of about 2,000,000 farm families, would have to be completely reorganized. Using some cocoons for making a wool substitute is one Japanese textile idea. Japan needs wool, and the farmers are accustomed to raising silkworms. Likelihood that Japanese people will be permitted and encouraged to use more silk is also foreseen. As war economy, Japanese have been restricted to wearing poorer grade silk and mixed textiles, so that high grade silk might be sold abroad.

Science News Letter, October 11, 1941

PHYSIOLOGY

Sex Glands Found Linked With Brain's Growth

A LINK between the sex glands and the brain's growth and chemical composition has been found by Dr. Arthur Weil of the Institute of Neurology of Northwestern University Medical School.

Removal of the sex glands in a male rat causes a drop in the weight of the

brain as well as the body, as compared with unoperated animals. But in the female, whose brain is normally lighter than that of the male, removal of the sex glands causes an increase in weight of brain and body.

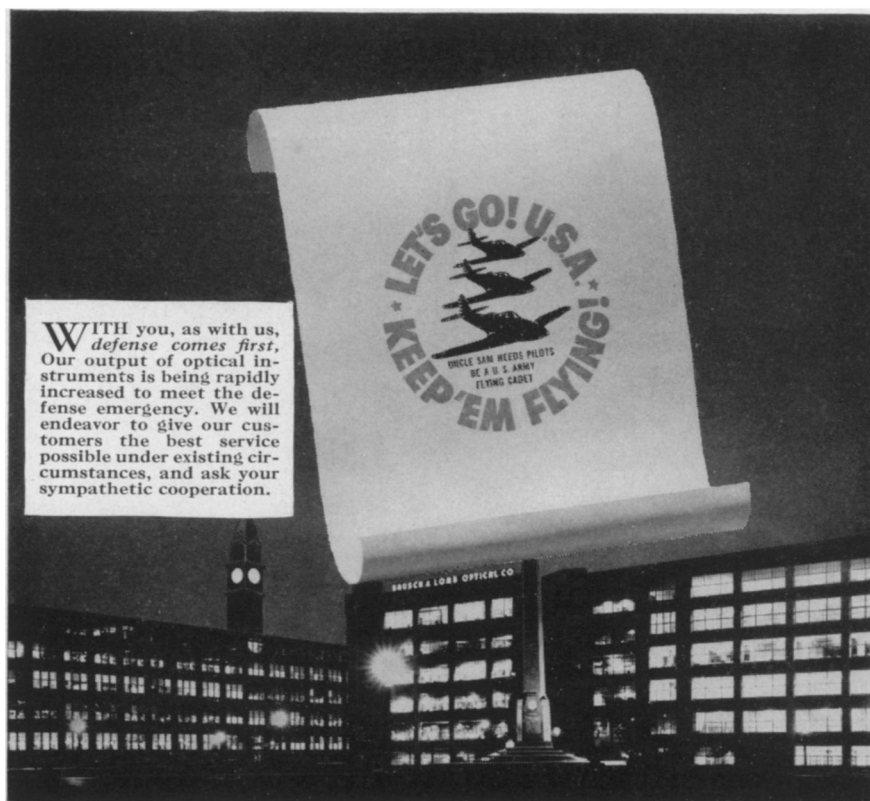
Deprivation of the sex glands does not completely eliminate the normal difference in brain weights between the male and female animals, Dr. Weil found. The still remaining disparity may be considered, he believes, as an expression of the determination of sex that

took place in the very first moments of the animals' existence and is determined by its inheritance of chromosomes.

The differences between the normal male and the operated male, or the normal female and the operated female, on the other hand represent the effect of the sex glands on the growth of the brain either directly or by the influence of the pituitary, thyroid or adrenal glands.

Details of Dr. Weil's study are contained in a current issue of the scientific journal, *Endocrinology*.

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THE challenge of the War Department finds one answer in the words of Edward Bausch when he says, "My associates and myself have obligated this company to a program that eclipses in magnitude and speed all previous efforts."

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