

TELEPHONY-MEDICINE

X-Ray Photos by Wire

Accident victims may owe their lives to this development if they are injured in a community where there is no radiologist to interpret their X-ray pictures.

➤ X-RAY PICTURES can now be sent by telephone. This new development, with life-saving implications for accident victims, was announced by Dr. J. Gershon-Cohen of Philadelphia and A. G. Cooley, New York engineer, at the meeting of the American Medical Association in Chicago.

A highway accident which took the life of a prominent industrialist during the war prompted the development of the telephoned X-ray technic. The accident victim was taken to a small hospital and X-ray pictures taken. But there was no one who could interpret the pictures. So the patient had to be transported several miles to a large city.

He died on the way. If there had been a radiologist at the small hospital the patient would have been saved. The radiologist could have told that the

injury would damage vital organs if not repaired before the patient was moved.

The X-ray telephone service is now operating routinely between the Chester Co., Pa., Hospital and Dr. Gershon-Cohen's office 50 miles away in Philadelphia. The hospital technician takes the picture, puts it on her transmitting machine and telephones Dr. Gershon-Cohen's office. He turns on his receiver, looks at the picture and tells the patient's physician, over the same telephone circuit, what he sees. The whole thing takes about three minutes.

As the facsimile transmission is similar to that used for transmitting newspaper pictures, it can operate between any two points on the continent. With radio instead of telephone it could serve ships at sea and patients around the world.

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948

PSYCHOLOGY

Soap Operas Beneficial

➤ SOAP OPERAS help to hold family life together. In this, they are like the old-time morality plays, in the belief of Drs. W. Lloyd Warner and William E. Henry of the Committee on Human Development of the University of Chicago.

By dramatizing the hopes and fears of the average American housewife, and her standards of right and wrong, the radio serial tells stories which point out good and evil in a way that ordinary people can understand, just as did the plays of the Middle Ages. People now, like those of many years ago, enjoy and benefit from this kind of drama.

The study was conducted in Chicago and Detroit among 60 housewives whose social position and education background were generally the same. Most of the women had graduated from high school; most of them lived in average residential neighborhoods and were the wives of clerical or skilled workers. All listen regularly to the daytime serials on the radio. The majority of them prefer the serials to any other type of radio program.

Extensive interviews with the women

were held, and a series of tests given, designed to show both their ways of thinking and feeling in general and their ideas and emotions about one of the popular serials, "Big Sister," a Columbia Broadcasting System program, sponsored by Procter & Gamble Co.

Contrary to the view of many people who think that such programs can only be a bore or a nuisance, it was discovered that Big Sister essentially gives the housewives a "lift." Their lives, it was found, are restricted, self-denying and unsatisfying. Demands are made of them which they are never sure they can meet, but which they consider their responsibility. Their general feeling is: I don't think I could do anything myself to handle my life better, but I wish I could do something.

When the housewives listen to Big Sister, who is happily married and who manages successfully troublesome friends and relatives, they are in the presence of a person much like themselves but a person who always can do something.

Big Sister meets problems they understand and solves problems about which

they are uncertain. She is both real and encouraging to them. Thus, through her they are able to receive casual but important entertainment which helps them to preserve American family life as we know it, the study indicated.

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948

GENERAL SCIENCE

Scientists Should Examine Meaning of Their Work

➤ SCIENTISTS have the duty of examining the meaning and purposes of the work they are performing, particularly military research, a committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions declared in Paris.

The new "charter for scientists," written by the council's committee on social relations of science, states:


"When in the service of others, scientists have the duty to inquire into the purposes for which the work is being done and into the moral issues possibly involved."

The charter claims for scientists freedom of publication, economic security, and the right to participate freely in all activities permitted to all citizens. The committee warned all scientists of the danger threatening freedom of science through the increasing military influence on scientific research.

"Secrecy restrictions of military research," the committee said, "will lead to the abrogation of the traditional freedom of expression and publication and result in directed research, not planned primarily for the benefit of science and mankind, but rather for its destruction."

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948

Nearly a million tiny *minnows* named *Gambusia affinis* are being planted in mosquito-breeding waters near Los Angeles this year; the fish clear the waters of mosquito eggs and larva.



Save-the-Redwoods

Send 10 cents each for these attractively illustrated pamphlets: "A Living Link in History," by John C. Merriam... "Trees, Shrubs and Flowers of the Redwood Region," by Willis L. Jepson... "The Story Told by a Fallen Redwood," by Emanuel Fritz... "Redwoods of the Past," by Ralph W. Chaney. All four pamphlets free to new members—send \$2 for annual membership (or \$10 for contributing membership).

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