



Memorial Days

► FLOWERS have been grave-decorations through all known history—and probably back into the dawn of civilization that preceded history. The ancient Egyptians, who held their dead so dear that they gave an ancestral mummy the place of honor at some of their feasts, wore garlands themselves and decked the sarcophagus with flowers.

We do no strange or new thing, then, when we make a little pilgrimage of piety,

once in the year at least, to place wreaths or bouquets on the graves of our dead, or to plant living flowers there to keep verdant vigil during the many days when we are away. Observing a day of floral remembrance only marks us as normal members of the human brotherhood.

The particular day of observance, May 30, now general over most of the United States, had its origin in 1869, not long after the Civil War. At the outset, it was primarily followed in the North; various states of the Confederacy had their own Memorial Days—May 10 in the two Carolinas; June 3 in most of the other states of the South. Although in its inception a day of recollection for dead heroes only, Memorial Day soon came to be a day for remembering all one's departed relatives and for decorating all their graves.

There is said to be some tendency now

in the South to accept May 30 as a day of remembrance also. If this should come to pass it would be only natural; many young men have fought and died under the Stars and Stripes whose grandsires fought for the Stars and Bars—and in the latest of our wars South Carolinians and even Texans accepted the nickname "Yanks" with good grace, when bestowed by allies whose intimate knowledge of American history was not on a par with their good will.

Celebration of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it soon came to be widely known, at this time of year has its practical as well as its sentimental reasons. Spring is well advanced and the supply of garden flowers is at its height. Yet it is not too late to set out most kinds of shrubs and perennial herbs, or to plant seeds of annual flowers on and around the graves of those whom we would remember.

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MEDICINE

Researchers Request Dogs

► UNCLAIMED dogs in the public pound in Washington will be used in medical research instead of being killed in the gas chamber, if bills now pending in Congress are enacted. Hearings on this legislation (H. R. 4238 and S. 1703) were scheduled to begin Tuesday, May 24.

Supporters of the bills point out that Washington has become one of the greatest medical research centers in the world. In addition to the various government research institutions, there are the medical schools of Georgetown, George Washington and Howard Universities. Investigations in veterinary medicine are also conducted by scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

All this research requires the use of animals, among them dogs. At present, dogs have to be purchased; and their scarcity and consequent high prices are indicated as handicaps to research.

Research workers point out further that while they are having a hard time getting enough dogs for experimental purposes, the D. C. pound annually destroys five or six thousand unclaimed animals. Since they must die anyway, it is argued, their deaths might as well serve some useful purpose, besides saving a little of the taxpayers' money.

Death in the dog-pound's gas chamber is essentially like human suicidal or accidental death in a gas-filled kitchen; it is caused primarily by carbon monoxide poisoning. It is fairly quick though not entirely painless, but may be said to involve a minimum of suffering.

Dogs and other animals that die in the laboratory pass out under the same anesthetics as are used in human surgery, so that when they do die on the operating table they are completely unconscious and incapable of feeling any pain at all. When

the experiment calls for the survival rather than the immediate death of the animal, post-operational care is at least as good as that in a well-run veterinary hospital.

By no means all of the experiments involving the use of animals are surgical. Tests of many drugs, vitamins, hormones, vaccines, serums and so on are carried out on dogs and other animals before the first use on a human volunteer is ventured. For all these medical pioneerings many dogs are needed. Supporters of the bills now before Congress hope to make use of animals now wasted even in their death.

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AERONAUTICS

Install Moving Stairways In Navy Carrier Vessels

► JET PILOTS on Navy carrier vessels will soon be able to reach the flight deck from below in the best of "take-off" condition, in spite of their 40-pound equipment pack, with the installation of rapid moving stairways. Westinghouse Elevator Division, in Jersey City, N. J., revealed that it is building the installations for at least three of the Naval floating aircraft bases.

Some 28 feet of ordinary stairs takes the wind out of the ordinary pilot when he has to answer an emergency call for an immediate take-off, particularly with the weight of equipment that he must carry. The new moving stairways will be capable of carrying 30 pilots a minute from the hangar deck to the flight deck. They will be much like the familiar escalators in department stores, but will be especially constructed and will utilize materials able to withstand the peculiar conditions encountered on shipboard.

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