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Science News Letter, July 18, 1959

#### MEDICINE

### Life Expectancy Not Cut By Intellectual Work

PROFESSORS do not die any earlier than streetcar conductors, a Swedish researcher reports.

Following a study of some 2,000 case histories, Prof. E. Ask-Upmark of Uppsala says that the intellectual strain to which professors are exposed does not increase the risk of brain tumors or cerebral hemorrhage. Causes of death were not different from those reported for persons in less intellectual work.

Actually, the "intellectuals" had a longer life-span, Prof. Ask-Upmark says in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (June 27). Swedish professors with an average lifetime of 68 years and American professors with an average of 67 years lived longer than the streetcar conductors (61 years) or the typographers (58 years). About two-thirds of the American professors lived to 65, while only one-third of the Swedish conductors and typographers reached that age.

Analysis of the causes of death for 382 Swedish university scholars (mostly professors) showed 151 died from cardiovascular diseases, 53 from cerebrovascular diseases, 53 from malignant tumors and 34 from respiratory diseases.

Cases of tuberculosis, pulmonary cancer and suicide were few among the professors, Prof. Ask-Upmark reports.

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#### GEOLOGY

### Aerial Color Photos May Find Underground Water

A UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME geologist and his aviatrix wife have teamed up in an aerial color-photographic survey in northern Indiana. They hope to find a superior way for detecting underground water.

Working under a \$6,500 grant from the Office of Naval Research, Dr. and Mrs. Erhard M. Winkler are making their photographs with special camouflage-detection film provided by the Navy.

Black and white film has been used to find subsurface water. Differences in shades of gray indicate whether the soil is dry or moist from underlying water.

The glacial deposits of this area are typical of those in northern Europe and northern Asia, Dr. Winkler said. It may be possible to generalize the results of his study to a certain extent and apply them to other parts of the world.

In their two-year study, the Winklers hope to show that special color film is more sensitive in water detection.

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#### BIOCHEMISTRY

### Baby Needs Less Food With Linoleic Acid

THE RIGHT AMOUNT of linoleic acid, an essential fatty acid found in milk, can reduce the amount of food needed to satisfy baby's hunger.

At the same time, a U. S. Department of Agriculture study showed, the usual weight gains will be maintained.

About four percent of the infant's total calories in linoleic acid is believed to be the optimum amount, the scientists found. This is the level found in human milk and is several times the amount in cow's milk. The body cannot manufacture linoleic acid, needed for such things as keeping the skin healthy, and it must be supplied in food, the researchers pointed out.

Working at the University of Texas School of Medicine, the researchers found that as linoleic-acid intake increased or decreased, the infants' food consumption changed in the opposite direction.

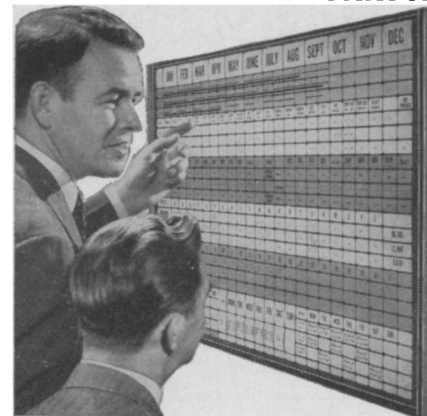
Infants kept in healthy condition on a diet of evaporated milk formula with added linoleic acid amounting to about one percent of the calories.

Cholesterol and total fatty-acids levels are relatively low in newborns as compared with those in their mothers.

Study is continuing on the effects of a mother's diet during the last three months of pregnancy on her blood serum fatty acid values just before, at, and after childbirth, as well as those of her infant at birth.

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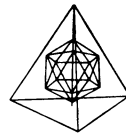
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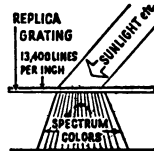
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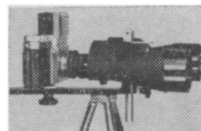
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