

ever, the female can bear young throughout her entire lifetime, which may be 50 or 60 years, for there is no menopause in any primates except humans.

Maximum conditions for setting up a large supply colony are yet to be determined. Data on all types of primate research are being channeled into central information files at the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, and new research groups soon will be adding their reports to the common pool.

One of the largest is the \$2,000,000 Oregon Primate Center, now under construction at Beaverton, Ore., where Dr. Donald E. Pickering, a pediatrician, will direct studies of some 500 rhesus monkeys.

Future Plans For Colonies

In the future, Dr. Willard H. Eyestone of the primate committee at NIH estimates, it should be possible to establish a breeding colony or colonies large enough to supply 25,000 to 30,000 primates per year. This number would be adequate for basic research purposes but not enough to meet the needs of drug production.

The closest thing to such a colony is Santiago, an L-shaped Puerto Rican island that has been a playground for rhesus monkeys since 1939. Some 300 TB-free animals now range freely over the island's 37 acres and 75 females are in the caged colony. A few are now being released to other institutions, and plans for expansion to two other islands are under consideration.

The main project on Santiago, now co-operatively sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness and the University of Puerto Rico Medical School, is an extensive study of neonatal defects and asphyxia at birth, aimed at finding out why babies are born with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, epilepsy, deafness and blindness.

• Science News Letter, 79:90 February 11, 1961

ROCKETS AND MISSILES

Successful Samos II Is U. S. Eye in the Sky

► SAMOS II, an experimental model of the U. S. Air Force's Satellite and Missile Observation System, has been successfully launched.

It now circles the globe in a circumpolar orbit 300 miles away when closest to earth and 350 miles away at the farthest point of its orbit. The period is 95 minutes.

The Samos system is intended for military surveillance, once in operation. However, the Samos II model was launched for the purpose of testing photographic equipment, the Air Force reported.

The perfected system of Samos satellites is planned to radio back to earth photographs of any part of the earth's surface.

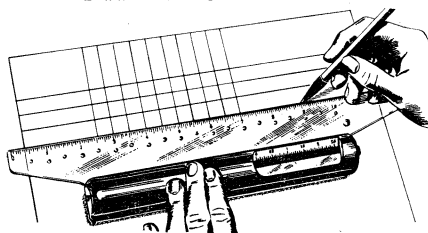
The Samos II satellite was launched by an Atlas ICBM first stage with a 22-foot Agena-A second stage rocket from Point Agnello, Calif. The Samos instruments are located in the nose of the Agena rocket.

Samos I, also launched from Point Agnello last October, never went into orbit.

There will be no attempt made to recover the Samos II.

• Science News Letter, 79:91 February 11, 1961

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