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Questions

ASTRONAUTICS—What planet is said to be a possible source of the "flying saucer" rumors? p. 307.

ENDOCRINOLOGY—What effect did ACTH injections have on male rats' arteries? p. 312.

METALLURGY—Which ceramic has been found to be the most "bendable"? p. 313.

Photographs: Cover, Lick Observatory; p. 307, U. S. Post Office; p. 310 and 311, Ladd Ob-servatory; p. 314, U. S. Department of Agri-culture; p. 320, Rockland Precision Mfg. Co.,

PHYSIOLOGY

Nylon Tube Makes Nerves Grow Again

> THE REGROWTH of an adult animal's spinal cord has been made possible by the use of a special nylon tube that surrounds the two severed ends.

This is reported by Drs. James B. Campbell, C. Andrew L. Bassett, Jakob Husby and Charles R. Noback, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University,

New York, in *Science* (Nov. 1).

The nylon tube is impregnated with cellulose acetate and forms a scaffolding that appears to allow the orderly regrowth of the many nerve fibers in the cord until they close the gap.

The structure of nylon is such that necessary body fluids can pass through it and nourish the regrowing nerves. However, it keeps out tissue cells that might otherwise invade the area and stop the repair.

In cats, the nylon tube caused the ends of the spinal cord to be firmly joined by a bridge of tissue within 30 days. Microscopic examination showed the separate fibers were regenerating in an orderly fashion within the gap.

The same technique has also been used for repair of outlying nerves in the animal body. Because of it, the nerves have begun working again 70 days after a one-inch gap was repaired.

It is still too early to tell how much

function will return to the spinal cords after they have grown back together, the scientists report.

Science News Letter, November 16, 1957

Do You Know?

A fish-eating bat which obtains its food directly from the sea is among specimens of animal life recently collected in the Gulf of California.

In "ulcer type" individuals who are anxiety driven, the vagus nerve stimulates an overproduction of gastric juices that eat gastric ulcers in the stomach lining.

In mass campaigns against syphilis and yaws more than 55,000,000 people had been examined and 16,000,000 treated by the end of 1956.