

GEOPHYSICS

Third 'Ear' Can Hear Sounds Too Low for Men

► THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS now has a third "ear" that listens in on atmospheric sounds too low for humans to hear.

Each of the ears can "hear" tornadoes hundreds of miles away, earthquakes half way around the world, disturbances high in the earth's atmosphere caused by particles hurled out by the sun and some mysterious and as yet unidentified sounds.

The new ear is near Tel-Aviv, Israel, and will be operated by the Standards Institution of Israel. The others are in Boulder, Colo., and Washington, D.C.

Each of these stations uses four special microphones placed several miles apart to study the very low-pitched atmospheric sounds. The microphones are linked to a central receiver. By noting the sequence in which the microphones pick up an arriving sound, scientists can tell from what direction it comes. The sound waves themselves tell many useful things about what caused them.

One puzzle the Israel ear will be used to study is the origin of recurring sounds that seem to come from the direction of the South Atlantic Ocean, but have been neither identified nor located by the U.S. stations.

Humans cannot hear sound waves having frequencies less than 15 cycles per second. The ears detect that cycle only once every 10 or 15 seconds.

• Science News Letter, 87:255 April 17, 1965

TECHNOLOGY

Hearing Aid for Deaf Helps Control Voice

► A NEW, low frequency hearing aid to help deaf persons control their own voices is now on the market.

The new instrument enables the user to experience an acoustical playback of his own voice in cases where deafness is so pronounced that individuals are unable to hear and recognize the auditory pulses necessary for voice control.

Called a Vocalizer, the device is manufactured by the Zenith Corporation, Chicago.

• Science News Letter, 87:255 April 17, 1965

Do You Know?

Twenty percent of the U.S. population has never visited a *dentist*.

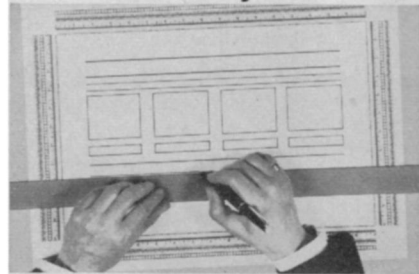
There are more than nine million *mothers* in the U.S. labor force with children under 18 years of age.

Shark liver research indicates that a *lipid*, or fatty substance, in the liver increases resistance to certain types of disease.

U.S. *Indian* youth who understand and appreciate their tribal heritage have been found to do better in school and on jobs than those who lack such background.

• Science News Letter, 87:255 April 17, 1965

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