

**DETERMINE SEX BY BLOOD TESTS**

A simple chemical test by which sex can be determined with reasonable accuracy has been developed by Dr. Dewey G. Steele, and Dr. Agnes Zeimet, working at the University of Wisconsin. The blood test has been applied to cattle and birds, and it works also on human beings.

In an accuracy trial, 20 pigeons were placed in the proper category out of 20 tried; of 77 fowl, 63 were ranked with the correct sex; and with 17 cattle there were no errors. The test is doubly sure with poultry, as the feathers have been found to give an additional, but reversed reaction.

"Using this criterion of sex, poultrymen can kill off the useless males early in life," Dr. Steele said. While emphasizing that the technic is still in the laboratory stage, Dr. Steele indicated that the test might be of use in criminology and in showing the sex of unborn children.

The test may also be of use to biologists, in order to reveal body changes following the transplantation of male sex glands.

The procedure in the case of cattle consists in adding hydrochloric acid and an oxidizing solution to a test tube sample of serum, diluted 100 times, of the animals to be examined. Four drops of methyl green dye are then introduced, whereupon serum taken from females gives a green color, and that originating in males, a red.

The explanation of the reaction is a difference in the appetite for oxygen of the serum from males and females, in Dr. Steele's opinion.

"A cumbersome test, requiring 5 chemicals and complicated by a time factor, is being used in Russia with some success to forecast sex in pregnancy," the biochemist states.

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**INTELLIGENCE IS MINOR FACTOR IN MONEY MAKING**

If you set out in this world to make money, your success will depend more on your personality than on intelligence or ability as a scholar. And a sense of humor won't help you so very much, either.

What you will need to stock up on are the traits usually displayed in abundance by self-made men of so many "success" stories: aggressiveness, enthusiasm, accuracy in work, and self-reliance.

A study of the mathematical relation between personality and income has just been made at Purdue University, and the traits that go hand in hand with money making are listed in order of their importance. Typical college men, who were graduated from engineering school five years ago, were taken as subjects for the study.

Originality and address are of more monetary importance in personality than neatness and sincerity, the investigation indicates. Reasoning ability stands twelfth in the series of 23 personal traits correlated with income. Moral

habits are the last thing in personality makeup that has any connection with financial success.

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#### DIABETES INSIPIDUS CAUSE BELIEVED FOUND

A cure for diabetes insipidus, a disease which is characterized by the excessive elimination of water by the system, may soon be won by medical science.

The first step toward this end has been made by Dr. Helen Bourquin, professor of physiology at the University of South Dakota, who has duplicated in animals all the symptoms of the disease as they are exhibited by afflicted humans.

Application of electric cantery to the pituitary - a small gland in the head - was the procedure which resulted in experimental diabetes insipidus in dogs.

The discovery appears to have revealed the mechanism which regulates the amount of water in the body. "The operation leads to actual drying up of the animals, if the water intake is restricted," Dr. Bourquin stated.

"The disease appears to be due to the discharge into the blood of something which stimulates the kidneys powerfully."

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#### TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

THE WAYS OF LIFE. By Richard Swan Lull. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1925. \$3.00.

The current struggle in public opinion over the question of organic evolution has resulted in the production of many new volumes on the development of life. A large part of these are either very hastily gotten up by more or less recognized authorities, who doubtless already regret some of the things they have put into print, and others are the product of obscurer and ill-prepared folk who are impelled either by fanaticism or a desire to ride the wave to notoriety or profit. But better digested and better prepared books are now beginning to appear, and of these Doctor Lull's must be counted one of the foremost. As might be expected, he gives a great deal of space to the paleontological record, yet his treatment of the other lines of evidence, though briefer, is still adequate. And anyway, to most of us the most interesting thing about evolution is the paleontological part. A very valuable chapter is the second, on the "Plasticity of Living Matter": too many of our modern popular science books neglect this fundamental physiological aspect, which is really the key to the whole situation.

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The death rate from communicable diseases is much higher in babies under two years than in older individuals.

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