

ed if I would just open a cavity for him so he could have a personal experience. I followed his directions, used a stone to cut through the enamel and exposed the dentin. Then, used a 34 inverted cone bur and made one cut into the dentin. He squirmed from the pain.

He then asked me to make the application. I used the same bur, prepared a cavity and filled it with cement. He got out of the chair, threw his arms around me and hugged me. It had been his greatest thrill in a dental chair."

Science News Letter, February 1, 1936

VITAL STATISTICS

Supreme Court Justices Are Not Unusually Long-Lived

DESPITE the general impression that Justices of the U. S. Supreme Court are an unusually long-lived body of men, statistical analysis shows that this is not the case.

As a group, each of the 66 Justices appointed since the court has been in existence lived about a year longer than would be expected for men of their ages in the ordinary walks of life, statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company have figured.

Since 1862 the average age of the Justices at appointment has been considerably older than before that date, the figures also show. The situation has been reversed in so far as Presidents are concerned, it is pointed out.

The older average age at appointment of the Supreme Court Justices may be due to the fact that the rapidly growing complexity of our legal structure demands men of riper age. Whatever the reason, the average older age of these appointees during the period since 1862 "seems not to have affected their ability to carry on, if we may be guided by their longevity as compared with that of judges appointed in prior years. The average age of these later justices was almost four and one-half years greater than that of the earlier group—73.7 years as against 69.3," the life insurance company statisticians state in their report.

"During the 146 years that the United States Supreme Court has been in existence, 76 appointments and two reappointments—John Rutledge and Charles E. Hughes—have been made to this distinguished body. Of these 76 men, 66 are dead, their average age at death being 71.4 years. This cannot be called a particularly advanced age despite the fact that there have been three non-agenarians and nine octogenarians on the Supreme Court Bench since its foundation. As nearly as can be computed, the aggregate years of life expectation

of these 66 men at the time of their appointment was 1,205, while the total number of years actually lived was 1,265. As a group, each lived about one year over the life expectancy of men of their ages in ordinary walks of life.

"Prior to the Civil War the picture was somewhat different from that following it. The total years of life expectation of the justices appointed during the earlier period numbered 712, while their actual years of life totalled 713. They thus fulfilled almost exactly the term of life that ordinary men of their age might expect. Subsequent to the Civil War, the number of years lived by the judges somewhat exceeded the expectation of life at time of appointment (552 years as against 493), namely, by not quite two years each over the expected. It can hardly be said, therefore, that life on the Supreme Court Bench is outstandingly conducive to longevity, as is generally supposed."

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PSYCHOLOGY

Emotional Appeal to Voters Garnered Most Ballots

POLITICAL psychology is an ancient art, but as a science it is just in the process of being born, Prof. George W. Hartmann, psychologist of Pennsylvania State College, told the New York Academy of Science recently.

In a recent test, Prof. Hartmann said, a minority party in a Pennsylvania city checked the vote-pulling power of a pamphlet written with a rational appeal in the form of a series of suggestions for social and economic change, as compared with an emotional appeal pamphlet in the form of a sentimental letter involving primarily an appeal to parental interest.

Distribution was made in three ways: in certain wards of the city, 5,000 copies of the rational pamphlet were personally handed to the voters; in other wards, 5,000 copies of the emotional appeal were similarly given out; and finally other wards were left alone as control districts.

When the votes were checked, in a comparison with the previous year's voting the greatest increase was found in the wards receiving the emotional appeal; next came the rational appeal, and finally the control wards. The emotional pamphlet was twice as effective as the rational questionnaire type of literature.

Two weeks after the election a follow-up check of the voters showed that three times as many people remembered the emotional leaflet as recalled the nature of the rational one.

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THE CARACOL, AN OVERGROWN RUIN, FROM AN OLD PRINT