

work itself again, and if he has developed some skill at his new task, he may be fitted into a real job. He is a work-shop "cure."

An observation work room has been established where most of the incoming patients are put to work in order that definite information may be ascertained concerning the patient's physical ability, physical limitation, aptitudes, skill, attitude toward work and his work habits.

Some of the patients need to be encouraged to work by easy, simple jobs, explained Walter C. Loague, superintendent of the Goodwill Industries in Chicago. Others need the stimulus of a more interesting, exciting kind of work. So the jobs are classified on a psychological basis as easy, quiet, interesting, simple, slow, popular, stimulating rapid, involving repetition, and the like.

Another part of the work-cure is teaching patients to cooperate with their fellow workers and supervisors. Some of them have been ill or handicapped so long that they have never worked. They have been "babied" at home. They never had a chance to learn team play from athletic games. These learn during the work-cure to be punctual, to work whether they feel like it or not, to work willingly with others as part of a team.

The psychological part of the work-cure is very important, both Dr. Fantus and Mr. Loague pointed out. The patient's mental attitude may be far more serious than his physical defect as a handicap that makes him unemployable. On this point Mr. Loague says:

"Stabilizing neurotic persons is another service which the Goodwill Curative Work renders. These people are like a ship which is in danger of sinking because its cargo has listed to one side. If the cargo could only be more

evenly distributed, the ship would regain its normal balance. Worry, fear, emotional stress and other factors are inclined to center a person's whole thinking around certain ideas. An unbalanced state of mind sometimes results. This condition takes the form of an over-excited nature, depression or forms of fear complexes. The assignment of the right kind of work can often bring about a mental balance by providing a needed diversion or thought, a stimulating factor, a sedative occupation, or just a regulated program of living."

This first work-cure shop is a start on the right road, an example of the sort of thing that can be done, under medical supervision, to remedy unemployability. Many more are needed, not only for the present when unemployment has made unemployability so much greater a problem, but for the future as a preventive of the condition.

The Social Security act has inspired Dr. Fantus with the hope that in the near future it may be possible to provide work-cures for all who need them.

This article was edited from manuscript prepared by Science Service for use in illustrated newspaper magazines. Copyright, 1936, by EveryWeek Magazine and Science Service.

Science News Letter, February 15, 1936

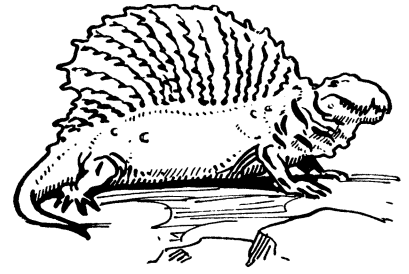
Only in Ethiopia Are Found Gelada Baboons

See Front Cover

THE bizarre looking apes pictured on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER have homes only in the mountainous parts of Ethiopia. They have no counterpart anywhere else in the world.

The cover photograph shows a new group of these rare apes recently placed on exhibition at the Field Museum of Natural History.

Science News Letter, February 15, 1936



The Survival of the Useless

ISN'T it odd, how long useless things survive!

In a world which is supposed to be governed, according to pure Darwinian doctrine, by ruthless competition, where only the fittest survive, there are really astonishing numbers of things that have nothing whatever to do with fitness, that even interfere seriously with fitness so far as human judgment can discern. And they last and last and last, most astoundingly.

Of what earthly use, for instance, are the endless arrays of spines and frills and ridges and other ornaments on reptiles? They don't fool or terrify their enemies: the creatures get eaten regardless. They don't help in catching the eye of a possible mate: males with lesser frills or spines manage to win the favor of females somehow. They don't help in getting food—if anything, they would seem in the way, if food-getting requires any agility, or ability to slip through narrow cracks. They're just there, without reasonably conjecturable use, and there they stay, an offense and a stumbling-block in the path of the curious, because we can't figure out a use for them.

The fashion is old, too. The weird saurians of the world's geologic Middle Ages, the "monstrous dragons of the prime that tare each other in their slime," were similarly decorated with exaggerated and useless appendages. Naturalists have racked their wits over them, and at the end have shaken their baffled heads.

Sometimes attempted explanations have run exactly counter to each other. In the days of the dinosaurs there was a fairly big reptile, not a dinosaur but of a somewhat higher order zoologi-

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER COUPON

To Science News Letter, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Please start renew my subscription to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for 2 years, \$7 1 year, \$5

Enclosed find check Please send bill

Name.....

Street Address.....

City and State.....

Extra postage charges: 50c a year in Canada; 75c a year in foreign countries.



cally, that had a huge upstanding fin, like the fin of a modern sailfish, sticking up along its spine. Each of the long ribs that supported it had a row of thorny projections on either side. Altogether it was an awesome object.

What could have been the use of such an expanse of bone and skin? Some paleontologists have suggested that it discouraged bigger reptiles from biting the creature through its backbone. If that were the case, of course the structure had a real survival value. Others, taking the contrary view, have said that it was not a "fitness feature" but an "unfitness feature"—that its sheer size and awkwardness was a handicap that hastened the extinction of the species. But in spite of this handicap (if such it was) the reptile managed to survive many millions of years.

Now its mounted skeletons in the museums grin at us with bare teeth and empty eye-holes—a riddle still unsolved.

Science News Letter, February 15, 1936

PHYSICS

Noise Standard to Help in Choosing Hearing Aids

RELIABLE standards for the guidance of the 5,000,000 men and women who need mechanical aids to hearing will result from the work of a new committee of the American Standards Association.

Headed by Dr. Vern O. Knudsen of the University of California at Los Angeles, a group of manufacturers, specialists and users will develop national standards for measuring noise so that physicians and the deaf can select devices to aid hearing with scientific guidance.

Science News Letter, February 15, 1936

An expedition collecting fish on the Great Barrier Reef, off Australia, found tiger sharks 12 feet long.

● RADIO

February 18, 3:00 p. m., E.S.T.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF DISEASE—Dr. Earl B. McKinley, Dean of the Medical School, George Washington University, Washington, D. C.

February 25, 3:15 p. m. E.S.T.

WEATHER — WHETHER OR NO — Dr. W. J. Humphreys of the United States Weather Bureau.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

HANOVIA TRANSPARENT FUSED QUARTZ



FOR over 30 years Hanovia laboratories have devoted themselves to production of transparent fused quartz, possessing the visual qualities of good quality chemical glass ware. These efforts have been very successful and we are in a position to offer clear fused quartz.

Almost entirely free from striations, air bubbles and other imperfections;—

With solarization resistant qualities;—

Fabricated in close keeping with your specifications;—

Manufactured from the finest of selected Brazilian crystals;—

Exceptional transmission of light including the short ultra violet.

The standard forms of laboratory ware are available for shipment from stock. Special shapes are expediently produced in accordance with your designs. Specify Hanovia fused quartz when ordering.

HANOVIA MODEL E MERCURY ARC LAMP

*A new mercury arc for the research laboratory.
Light in weight, low in cost, adjustable features.*

Hanovia Alpine Sun, Quartz Mercury Arcs are available for Industrial, Scientific and Therapeutic applications of ultra violet light.

FREE

The New Hanovia Quartz Catalog is Available for Distribution. A copy will be mailed you on request.

HANOVIA
Chemical and Manufacturing Co.
RESEARCH APPARATUS DIVISION DEPT. 323-B NEWARK, N. J.