

tion, doctors now know, is due either to too little acetylcholine or a too rapid destruction of it, resulting in inability to use the voluntary muscles. Patients suffering from this disease are now be-

ing helped by a medicine which preserves the acetylcholine from too rapid destruction. It is normally broken down into other chemicals after it has performed its function of nerve messenger.

Science News Letter, May 29, 1937

PHYSICS

Birth Notice of Particle Appears in Physics Journal

NOBEL prize physicist, Dr. Carl D. Anderson of California Institute of Technology, and his colleague, Dr. Seth H. Neddermeyer, have the scientific "birth notice" of their new atomic particle in the *Physical Review* (May 15).

Yet unnamed, the new particle is considered as intermediate in weight between the two simplest particles hitherto known: the electron and the proton. The electron has a negative charge of electricity while the proton has a positive charge of electricity and known to be the nucleus of a hydrogen atom.

A footnote in the scientific report entitled "Note on the Nature of Cosmic-Ray Particles," indicates that the claim

for priority as to who should be the scientific "parents" of the new atomic baby particle was a close race.

Notice is there made that the report of Drs. J. C. Street and E. C. Stevenson of Harvard University at the Washington meeting of the American Physical Society on April 29 gives "excellent experimental evidence showing the existence of particles less massive than protons but more penetrating than electrons. . ."

The Anderson-Neddermeyer paper was submitted for publication just a month earlier, on March 30. (See SNL, May 8)

Science News Letter, May 29, 1937

MEDICINE

Abortions Common Among Women Using Birth Control

RESORT to intentionally induced abortion is much more common among women who practice birth control than it is among women who do not. The abortionist is called upon to rectify the inadequacies of birth control.

Birth control is practiced more widely, although less effectively, in Chicago than in New York City.

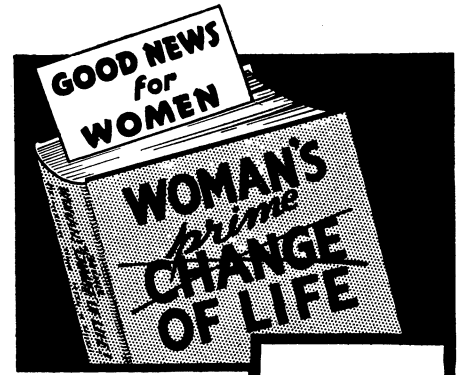
These are two facts that Dr. Raymond Pearl, Johns Hopkins University biologist, uncovered in his studies of the reproductive life of some 31,000 women delivered of babies in the hospitals of the East and of the Mississippi Valley.

From this study he makes a report on fertility and on contraception as practiced by New York and Chicago women. (*Journal, American Medical Association, April 24*)

What the biologist calls "reproductive wastage"—those pregnancies that terminate in miscarriages, abortions or stillbirths—constitute an outstanding part of Dr. Pearl's findings.

The 1,328 New York women studied who have experienced two or more pregnancies admit that one in every twenty-four pregnancies they have experienced in their aggregate reproductive lives has been terminated by a successful criminal abortion.

Furthermore, on their own admission,



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