

approximately one in every eight of them has had at least one induced abortion. Finally they admit that approximately 30 per cent. of the aggregate reproductive wastage they have experienced has been due solely to criminal abortions induced by themselves or by somebody else.

"It is probable that the admitted figures are short of the truth," writes Dr. Pearl.

All of the women studied are living in wedlock, have been married only once and are free from gynecologic disease. In other words, they are not persons of loose morals.

"These are records of families, living together and rearing children, on the whole representative of the most substantial sort of the traditionally typical American family from the 'very poor' through 'well-to-do and rich,'" states Dr. Pearl.

"They are voluntarily taking one of the most serious risks to their very lives as well as to their future health and well-being that a woman can take short of suicide or major self-mutilation."

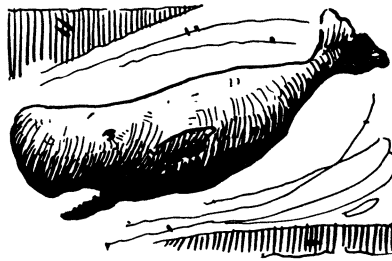
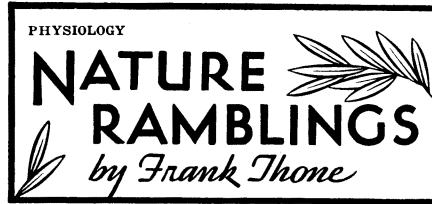
The white women of Chicago appear to be somewhat less fertile on the average than the white women of New York City, whether measured by pregnancies or by live births produced, the study shows.

Among the 3,451 white women studied in Chicago, 64 per cent. have practiced birth control either consistently or irregularly. Of the 3,420 white New Yorkers, 53 per cent. have made attempts at contraception.

As indicated by the average lapse of time between marriages and the beginning of the first pregnancy, contraception as actually practiced is more effective among New York women than among Chicago women.

Attempted contraception was less frequent and less effective among Negroes than among whites in both cities.

Science News Letter, May 29, 1937



Survival of the Fattest

FAT would seem to be par excellence the chosen form for the storage of energy against a time of future need. In the animal kingdom it is ubiquitous: the whale's blubber, the camel's hump, the layers of lard and bacon on the back and sides of the hog.

Man turns this animal storage of fat to his own advantage in many ingenious ways. The whole vast old-time whaling industry was founded principally on the whale's blubber aforementioned; the even vaster meat-packing industry of today rides on the backs of fat hogs, fat cattle, fat sheep. Savages burn the dried bodies of "oil-birds" as torches. The poor penned geese of Strasbourg are forced to be gourmands so that men may be gourmets, savoring the fatty delicacy of *pâté de foie gras*.

To be sure, animals do not store all their reserve energy-food as fat. Principally in the liver a unique carbohydrate, glycogen, is laid up. This apparently converts into the ultimate muscle-food, dextrose, more readily than the more complex fat. It is the little heap of broken coal right down in front of the bunker, easiest to shovel into the furnace when needed. But it is worth noting that the

liver is also one of the prime storage-places for fat, as witness the liver oils of cod and other kinds of fish.

Fats and oils, by the way, have no sharp boundary between them. A fat is a solid oil; an oil is a liquid fat.

Plants as well as animals store a good deal of fatty-oily reserve food, although they tend to favor carbohydrates in far greater volume than animals. This may possibly be a consequence of the plant's sessile life; rooted fast in one place, it does not find the bulkier starches and sugars the handicap they would be to the actively motile animal.

Certainly it is worthy of note that in the very parts of plants that are likely to travel, that is, the seeds and other propagating bodies, one is most likely to find stored fatty foodstuff. Not only that, but if a seed has both starch and oil, the droplet of oil is nearest the folded-up embryo plant within the seed. Corn, wheat and other grains offer good examples on this point.

In oilier seeds, such as cottonseed, linseed, cacao beans, castor beans, coconuts—indeed nuts of all kinds—the stored oil may be more widely distributed. Some plants even endow the flesh of the fruit with oil, as witness the olive of the Old World and the avocado of the New.

Science News Letter, May 29, 1937

BIOLOGY—PSYCHOLOGY

Twins Don't Stay Alike If They Don't Stay Together

TWINS don't stay alike if they don't stay together. This is the general conclusion derived from a study of many pairs of twins, both identical and non-identical, by a three-man research team at the University of Chicago, representing the sciences of biology, psychology, and statistics.

Some of the twins had been reared together, others had been separated in infancy by various chances of life, and brought up apart. It was found that if the two members of a pair of identical twins grew up in strongly different social and educational surroundings, they "grew apart" as the years went on, and came to be quite unlike each other.

The three Chicago researchers are Profs. Horatio H. Newman, Frank N. Freeman, and Karl J. Holzinger. Their results are published in book form by the University of Chicago Press.

Science News Letter, May 29, 1937

Diabetes is increasing throughout the world, but is more prevalent in the United States than anywhere else.

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