

PSYCHIATRY

Young Mental Patients Have Fair Recovery Chance

MENTAL disease is by no means hopeless. Forty per cent. of the patients admitted to state or civil mental hospitals in the United States are discharged annually as recovered or enough improved so that they can leave the institution, statistics compiled by Dr. Carney Landis, of the Columbia University School of Medicine, reveal.

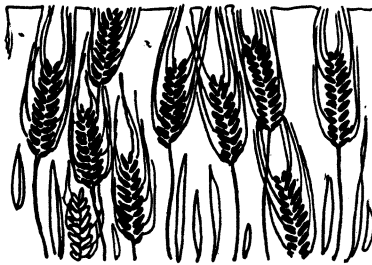
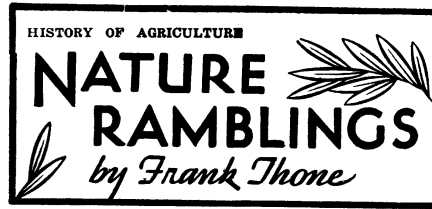
The rate is much higher than this average when the patient is young or when suffering from certain of the mental diseases. Women have a better chance for recovery than men, probably because they are more susceptible to the particular mental ills that are most responsive to treatment.

Manic-depressive insanity and involuntional melancholia, mental ills to which women are more often subject, have a record respectively of 65 and 45 patients discharged from the hospital for each hundred admitted. Dementia praecox, the disease to which men are more susceptible, has a rate of forty per cent. discharged. The rate is lower for hardening of the arteries in the brain, 15 per cent., and for general paresis, 20 per cent. Better prospects face those suffering from psychopathic personality, alcoholic insanity and psychoneurosis, of whom 65 per cent. to 75 per cent. recover or are greatly improved.

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Dynamite cannot be shot from a rifle or cannon—it is purely an industrial explosive, manufacturers explain.

Kangaroos are such slow eaters that a zoo meal may last a kangaroo four hours.



Bread is Old

NEARLY 2000 years have passed since we were taught to say, "Give us this day our daily bread." And even then, bread was an old, old standby, so old that men of that time never imagined ancestors who had no bread to eat. The same might be said for the rice of China and India, probably for the corn of the American Indians.

Relative antiquities of various crop plants are discussed anew in re-edition of Robbins and Ramaley's book, "Plants Useful to Man." Their list is based in part on the classic "Origin of Cultivated Plants" of DeCandolle, published half a century ago; but revisions have been made since his time, introducing some changes.

Knowledge of the antiquity of cultivated plants is based partly on ancient literature and even more ancient monuments, on archaeological findings, on the occurrence of plant names in "dead" languages like Sanskrit and Hebrew, and on other ingeniously followed clues.

It has been pretty securely determined,

for instance, that the following Old-World plants have been under cultivation for more than 4,000 years: wheat, rice, barley, millet, sorghum, turnip, onion, cabbage, broad-bean, tea, flax, hemp, mulberry, grape, mango, fig, date, banana, olive, apricot, almond, peach, apple, quince, watermelon, cucumber.

Some plants are not mentioned in the oldest sources, but do show up in records more than 2,000 years old. Among them (again figuring only Old-World kinds) are radish, carrot, beet, celery, lettuce, asparagus, garden pea, alfalfa, grapefruit, lemon, orange, cherry, plum, walnut, chestnut, poppy, mustard, cotton, pepper, sugarcane, rye, oats, rose, carnation, chrysanthemum.

It will be noted that in this list are several trees that are also still found growing wild. Apparently as civilization made wider deserts men found it necessary to cultivate more trees.

Old-World plants presumably less than 2,000 years in cultivation include coffee, muskmelon, currant, gooseberry, strawberry, raspberry, parsley, parsnip, horseradish. Notable is the fact that the most important plants are longest in cultivation; wheat is immemorial; horseradish comparatively recent.

The authors are conservative regarding American agricultural antiquities, for there was no literature on this continent and there were only a few dated monuments. They believe, however, that 2,000 years is a minimum for maize, sweet potato, tobacco, cacao, and kidney beans. A lesser age is possible (though not certain) for white potato, tomato, pumpkin, squash, avocado, pineapple, peanut, cotton and vanilla.

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SEISMOLOGY

Strong Earthquake Is Spotted in Alaska

ALASKA felt a severe earthquake that shook strongly seismographs throughout the world and allowed earthquake experts to locate the shock's center as about 50 miles northwest of Fairbanks. The shock occurred shortly after noon, EST., on July 22.

Telegraphed data sent Science Service by St. Louis University, Dominion Meteorological Observatory, Victoria, B. C. and the Seismological Laboratory at Pasadena, Calif., allowed the probable location to be determined by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey scientists. (Epicenter 65 N 149 W. Time: July 22, 12:09.5 p. m. EST)

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