

given in a short review. In limiting itself to the full discussion of a single large topic, it is following the lead established in the preceding two yearbooks, which thoroughly worked out the subject of agricultural genetics.

Science News Letter, September 17, 1938

PSYCHOLOGY

Few Recreation Interests Are of Life-Long Value

CHURCH-going still leads as a leisure-time activity, if a sample of the Missouri population may be considered as typical of Americans in general.

And church-going is one of the few interests that do not fall off with increasing age, according to a survey conducted by Dr. Eugene S. Briggs, of Phillips University, Enid, Okla., and reported to *School and Society*.

Old age and increasing enforced leisure seem inevitable, unless one is to escape through death. Yet it is surprising how many of our recreational interests are those that do not appeal to the aged.

Even the movies fail to hold the elderly, those who never attend increasing steadily from 18 per cent at 20 years to 50 per cent at 40 years, 72 per cent at 60 years and 100 per cent at 90 years, Dr. Briggs found.

Card playing, dancing, radio listening, and even the entertaining of friends lose interest as we grow older, it seems.

Age does not affect concert or lecture attendance.

Hobbies are enjoyed by only 39 per cent of adults, but appeal particularly to men and women between 65 and 75 years of age, 95 per cent of whom ride a hobby. Hobbies hold the better educated and the city dweller, Dr. Briggs discovered.

Athletic sports are not participated in much by adults, even if horse shoes are included, Dr. Briggs said. Only one in ten country folks play athletic games as often as once or twice a week. Here again the interest wanes with increasing age.

Of all adults who read newspapers, 40 per cent find recreation in so doing. A similar percentage find recreation in reading magazines.

Books are not very popular, for 60 per cent have read no books in the past six months. And if you think that books are neglected only by those remote from libraries, you are due for a surprise. The greatest number of non-readers of books were born in the city.

Science News Letter, September 17, 1938

\$1000 AWARD FOR BIOGRAPHY OF THE UNBORN

by MARGARET SHEA GILBERT

IN COMPETITION with men from all over the world, Mrs. Gilbert won the \$1000 award offered by the publishers for the best manuscript on a science subject for general reading. Incidentally she won the contest just a month after her first baby was born.

The committee judging the anonymous entries consisted of:

LYMAN BRYSON
Columbia University

HARRY HANSEN, Book Review Editor
New York World-Telegram

JOSEPH WHEELER
Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore

DAVID DIETZ, Science Editor
Scripps-Howard Newspapers

Read This Biography

The stream of life flows more swiftly here than ever after. Half a lifetime is lived during the first two months, if time is measured by internal events and changes.

Harry Hansen thus expressed his opinion: "I have never encountered the story of human life in such intelligible and exciting terms before, and I believe the author has succeeded in everything she set out to do. No one who reads it can help being interested in this high adventure of being born."

Illustrated, 142 pages, Glossary, index. \$1.75.

"Highly recommended" by the Scientific Book Club as an especially fine piece of expository writing.

Life Begins

at an unfelt, unknown, and unhonored instant, when a minute wriggling sperm plunges headlong into a mature egg.—After twenty-five days the first heart beat—A simple brain—First kidneys to be lost again—An increase of 8000 times in weight.

Then—

A face, limbs, much of muscles and a bit of skeleton—The liver starts secreting. Kaleidoscopic changes in the sexual organs—Vocal cords ineffective like broken violin strings—The fetus thrusts arms and legs—Hair, nails and a wrinkled skin—The descent of viscera explains a puzzling waste of nerve growth.

Finally—

The eyelids, fused shut since the third month, reopen—Nervous system and brain develop—Fat is formed, the old-man look is lost—The fetus has hiccoughs, may suck his thumb—Exodus and adjustments.

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