



DETECT RADIOACTIVITY

Mickey and Minnie showed visitors at the Carnegie Institution exhibit how radioactive salts can be detected in the body. As Mickey passes the Geiger counter in the apparatus being demonstrated by Dean B. Cowie, the clicks betray his diet.

true blonds and no red heads in the group measured. Merging of the Acadians into American stock, which is likely to take place, will have little effect on physique of future generations, the study shows.

Science News Letter, December 30, 1939

Leaders a Strong Force

NOTABLE success of Canada's Iroquois and Blackfoot Indians in adapting to civilization was attributed largely to able leadership of their far-seeing chiefs, by Dr. Diamond Jenness anthropologist of the National Museum of Canada.

Citing these Indians as examples of a frequently overlooked truth, Dr. Jenness declared that "the strongest forces for the regeneration or upbuilding of peoples come from within their own ranks, not from without." The ideal capable of stimulating a people may lie dormant for years or centuries, "as did the longing for liberty in Finland and Poland" unless some great leader arises to give it voice and to carry the people with him, the Canadian anthropologist stated.

"Every administration that deals with a native race," he advised, "should aim, first of all, to inspire or foster in that race some desirable goal and then to promote the evolution of native leaders who will command the confidence of their

people and guide them toward that goal."

Dr. Jenness stated that the steadfast belief of Canadian governments has been that the Dominion's aborigines should gradually fuse with whites. He predicted for the American Arctic a population of hardy frontiersmen carrying in their veins a strain of Eskimo blood, but speaking a European language.

Science News Letter, December 30, 1939

Either Foot Can Hurt

YOU may be able to kick better with your right foot than your left, but a corn will be equally painful on either side, Dr. L. Pearl Gardner, psychologist of Cornell University, told the meeting.

Blindfolded and running their toes delicately over different grades of sandpaper, different sizes of corks and marbles, and other articles of various shapes, 85 college students demonstrated in Dr. Gardner's experiment, that people are not pronouncedly either right-footed or left-footed in ability to feel.

Although most of the group were slightly faster in sorting by feel with the right foot than with the left, the right foot was responsible for more errors.

There is more evidence of laterality in the hands, however. Left hands are quicker but slightly less accurate than right hands. But left-handed persons prefer to use the left hand for sorting by feel and are justified in so doing; their left hands would select more rapidly and more accurately.

Girls are either more sensitive than men or they take time to make sure about minute differences in perception, Dr. Gardner found, for although the men had a higher speed, they made more errors.

The matter of sidedness is important, Dr. Gardner explained, because when a naturally right- or left-handed person is forced to use the other hand, he may be retarded in reading, writing, or spelling. Dr. Gardner is investigating the importance of sidedness in sensitivity as compared with sidedness in motor skill.

Science News Letter, December 30, 1939

Bad Health No Excuse

THE COLLEGE boy or girl who makes low grades needn't blame illness or physical defect. With less than 9% of students do physical conditions cause failure, Dr. A. S. Edwards, of the University of Georgia, reported on the basis of a survey made at that University.

If any relation can be found between physical defect and academic achievement, it is an inverse one, he said—the more physical defects and the more serious they are, the higher the grades. Those in the top third of the class in academic standing have as high a percentage of defects and illnesses as those in the lower groups.

Science News Letter, December 30, 1939

Conditioned Under Hypnosis

A MAN psychologically "conditioned" in a deep hypnotic sleep by smelling creosote during the ringing of a bell will afterwards have a vivid image of the odor of creosote whenever in the waking state he hears the ringing of that bell.

Results of a number of such experiments linking under hypnosis visual, auditory, olfactory, tactual and pain sensations in various combinations, were reported to the meeting by Dr. Clarence Leuba, of Antioch College.

Combinations learned in this way, he found, will later be reproduced automatically without any conscious process or the consciously remembered associations postulated by the classic laws of association.

Science News Letter, December 30, 1939

Recovered Plants Immune

BEHAVIOR of tobacco plants after recovering from the virus disease known as curly top was described by Dr. James M. Wallace of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The plants were immune to further attacks of the same and closely related viruses, just as a human being who has had smallpox once is immune to that disease.

Unlike the human convalescent, however, the recovered plants continue to harbor the virus, and healthy plants can be made sick by transfer-inoculation from them. However, it does not seem to be as potent for mischief as virus taken from plants while they are still actively sick.

It was also found that tomato plants could be protected against the virus to some extent at least, by grafting upon them shoots from recovered tobacco plants.

Science News Letter, December 30, 1939

In making a muskrat coat several thousand pelts may be examined before about 75 are chosen for matched color and quality.