



**FATHER OF CANNING INDUSTRY**—Because of his discovery of the canning principle, Nicolas Appert, whom Napoleon presented with a 12,000-franc prize, has been called the "benefactor of mankind."

peas without removing the pods from the vine. Conveyors began carrying the product through canneries then operating on an assembly line basis.

Soon meats were canned in Chicago, shrimp in New Orleans, sardines in Maine, salmon in Alaska and pineapples in Hawaii.

Today's modern housewife can buy almost anything in cans from A to Y—from abalone, a sea food, to youngberry juice. Included among available canned products are bamboo shoots, a Chinese dinner, dandelion greens, water chestnuts, and even ham and eggs.

### Employs Half a Million

From Nicolas Appert's initial discovery has sprung an industry which in the United States alone provides work for half a million persons and which benefits millions more. The Encyclopedia Britannica says: "The method of preserving food in tins or other containers is probably defensible as the greatest of all inventions in historic times."

It is no wonder that Napoleon personally presented Appert with the 12,000-franc prize.

### BIOLOGY TEACHERS: HAVE YOU TRIED INSECTS?

Many insect tissues are as representative as are those of mammals, and have the additional advantage of being unusually clear. Among the many we have prepared, we list the following:

1. Spermatogenesis,
2. Oogenesis,
3. Salivary gland,
4. Digestive mucosa,
5. Striated muscle,
6. Malpighian tube,
7. Single neuron,
8. Fat body, etc.

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Through the years, the canning business has sought to maintain a high-quality product. To do that, it has had to have high-quality food from the farmer.

### Harvesting Services Provided

Research work sponsored by the canning industry has helped bring about improved flavors and appearances of fruits and vegetables, new types of hybrid sweet corn, the stringless bean, solid red beets (instead of beets having alternate bands of red and white), and several new cling peaches that combine deep flesh and small pit with an appealing color and flavor.

Canners have helped educate farmers to the task of proper fertilization and harvesting techniques. Canners' field men frequently give advice on the selection and planting of seeds, and the fungicides and insecticides to use during the growing season. Sometimes they even show farmers how to operate new mechanical harvesters.

Because many small growers cannot afford to own and operate harvesters, power sprayers and dusters, many canners provide those services at cost to help the growers produce better foods for the canneries.

### Research Saves Scarce Tin

In addition to research aimed at better foods, the industry also seeks to find better techniques for itself. Today's tin can is a far cry from the rugged container of the early 1800's. It now is made of sheet steel coated with just enough tin to keep the canning juices and the atmosphere from attacking the steel. Further research points to a possible saving of scarce tin if the outside of the can is coated with less tin than the inside.

Even atomic energy may enter the canning business. "Cold sterilization" of foods by various forms of radiation, including that from atomic fission products, possibly could become a canning industry procedure. Research workers are studying that possibility.

Science News Letter, October 18, 1952

Nine separate islands in Rio de Janeiro's Guanabara Bay are being joined with filled-in earth; the project will result in "University City," a proposed school that can enroll 10,000 students.

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### PSYCHIATRY

## Much Interest, No Money For Psychiatric Research

➤ JUST ABOUT everyone in this country is interested in psychiatry, but almost no one is willing to dig down into his pocket to support psychiatric research.

As a result, "research in psychiatry is starving to death," Dr. Lawrence S. Kubie of Yale University School of Medicine and the New York Psychoanalytic Institute charges in a report to the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington.

Dr. Kubie gives figures showing that psychiatric research is way behind other medical research in funds, space and personnel. Referring to these, he says:

"When we look at our figures we need no longer feel surprise that, in spite of all the popular talk about psychiatry, not one of the psychiatric discoveries of the past 50 years was made in this country."

The costs of clinical care for psychiatric research, he estimates, should be \$100 to \$200 per bed per day, instead of the present "paltry" \$20 to \$30. Of the \$100 to \$200, three-fourths should go for research personnel and research activities.

Science News Letter, October 18, 1952

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