

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Inability to Read

When children show dread or hate of school, parents should investigate the youngster's reading ability. Problems should be diagnosed and treated early.

➤ **MANY** A youngster dreads going to school because of inability to read. The condition is medically termed dyslexia.

It is a real condition that can build up enough anxiety and tension to cause before-school headaches and sick stomachs. So if Johnny or Mary shows such symptoms, or shows obvious dread and hate of school, parents should look carefully into his reading ability or inability. From 4% to 12% of older school children have some inability to read.

This advice comes from Dr. R. Swartout of El Monte, Calif. In a report to GP, published by the American Academy of General Practice, he points out that few parents can realize the tremendous tension and feelings of insecurity that a sensitive child has when confronted with a school day during which he is expected to do the impossible.

The abnormal factors which interfere with the ability to read are particularly easy to observe, easy to prevent and easy to correct, Dr. Swartout says.

Some of the fundamental physical causes are low intelligence, bad hearing, poor vision, and strephosymbolia or mixed symbols, such as mistaking an "n" for a "u."

In stressing the importance of strephosymbolia, the California doctor points out that 12.5% of the population are ambidextrous and it is in this group that mixed symbols are likely to develop.

"In the public schools of California where many teachers use the 'flash method' to teach reading, this type of dyslexia (strephosymbolia) is far more frequent than in private schools where instruction is highly individualized," he states.

He stresses that it is imperative to have the reading problems of these children diagnosed and treated as early as possible. The approach to the problem is threefold:

1. A correct diagnosis by the family physician.

2. The envelopment of the child in loving individual attention.

3. The de-emphasis of school and reading with concentration in another field where the child has skills.

Science News Letter, October 18, 1952

TECHNOLOGY

Chromium-Glass Coat Protects Molybdenum

➤ **LONGER LIFE** for jet engines is promised with a new chromium-glass coating for the hard-to-melt molybdenum metal used in the engines. The coating was developed by the National Bureau of Standards.

The melting point of molybdenum is 4,750 degrees Fahrenheit, but it oxidizes and deteriorates rapidly at high heats unless protected. The new coating is composed of chromium, and a glass in the form known as frit.

Because of its high melting point, molybdenum is the logical metal to withstand the high temperatures developed in the jet engine. It is relatively plentiful and America has an abundant domestic supply. It is already in use in jet engines, but wider applications will be possible with the new coating.

In tests conducted at the Bureau by D. G. Moore and associates, various chromium-frit coatings were bonded to molybdenum specimens, then subjected to oxidation under tension in the range of 1,500 to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit and to flame tests in the range from 2,000 to 3,000 degrees. In the lower range, they lasted for 1,000 to 3,000 hours. In the flame tests, they lasted as much as seven hours.

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Do You Know?

The *rocket* was used as a military weapon as far back as 3,000 B.C.

A leaky *faucet* dripping once each second may waste 700 gallons of water in a year's time.

Using insecticides on cattle insects often increases *beef* production half a pound a day, and milk by 10% to 15%.

A one-pound *motor*, capable of responding to more than 100 signals a second, has been developed to move control surfaces on supersonic aircraft.

A symbol of *forest fire* prevention, "Smokey Bear" first was publicized in 1945; since then, forest fires have been reduced by 90% of their prewar level.

The *heat* given off in an hour by 30 healthy children in a school room is enough to raise about seven gallons of water from freezing to its boiling point.

SELLS FIRST STORY AT 60



"Since I am crowding threescore, my objective in taking the N.I.A. course was not to become a professional writer. However, while still taking the course, I sent an article to St. Joseph Magazine. It was immediately accepted. Encouraged, I wrote others. 'Our Navy' accepted them and asked for more. All thanks to N.I.A."—Albert M. Hinman, 1937 East Silver Street, Tucson, Arizona.

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