

## PUBLIC SAFETY

# Hazards to Be Labeled

► WHEN YOU SEE "Poison" on a bottle of turpentine you buy a few weeks hence, it means that Uncle Sam will be trying to save the lives of little children. Manufacturers of household aids such as waxes, cleaning agents, bleaches, detergents, wood finishes and their solvents face enforcement of labeling laws Aug. 1 unless they can prove certain products are not hazardous.

The Food and Drug Administration published the first proposed regulations for enforcement of the new law in the Federal Register, April 29, 1961.

A public hearing will be held some time in July, FDA said, and interested persons may present their views on or before June 28 in writing to the Hearing Clerk, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 330 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington 25, D. C.

Such common substances as kerosene and turpentine must carry the words "Danger—Poison" on their labels.

Special precautionary labeling must in-

clude the usual or chemical name of the hazardous substance or of each component that contributes significantly to the hazard. Plain labeling in conspicuous type is required.

"Keep out of the reach of children" and instructions for handling and storage of hazardous packages are among the precautionary measures proposed. Instruction for first-aid treatment is required if necessary.

Proposed for special designation as "strong sensitizers" requiring warning or caution labeling are the antiseptic formaldehyde; powdered orris root, used as a dusting powder; oil of bergamot, used for masking disagreeable odors; and certain glues.

Food, drugs and cosmetics already under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and "economic poisons" covered by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act are exempt from the new regulations.

• Science News Letter, 79:319 May 20, 1961

## PSYCHIATRY

# Hypnosis Aids Research

► HYPNOSIS was successfully used in a study of changes in body chemistry when individuals were suffering from anxiety, Dr. Harold Persky of the Institute of Psychiatric Research in Indianapolis, Ind., reported to the meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences.

The anxiety was produced in perfectly normal humans by first placing them in a hypnotic trance and then suggesting the anxiety to them by having them listen to a message recorded on a tape. The tape was used in order to make the suggestion the same to all those taking part in the experiment.

The hormones hydrocortisone and corticotropin are secreted in significantly elevated quantities during anxiety, Dr. Persky found. This body chemistry effect was increased during the experiment by the injection of the hormones until the level was 10 to 20 times that occurring naturally. The level of anxiety was measured with standardized tests.

By determining exactly what are the chemical accompaniments of anxiety, it is hoped that an effective treatment to relieve anxiety can be developed.

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## Drugs During Growth

► PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT is relatively resistant to change by drugs that affect the mind, Dr. J. L. Fuller of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Me., told the meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Fuller's conclusion is based on experiments with dogs growing under rigor-

ously controlled conditions for a period of three years. The animals were treated with chlorpromazine (a tranquilizer), mescaline (from a plant used by Indians as an intoxicant during ceremonies) and amphetamine (used to relieve depression).

Although these drugs did not seem to cause any permanent changes in psychological and behavioral development, transitory effects were noted. Dr. Fuller is continuing with a study of such temporary chemical imbalance during the period of basic perceptual learning to determine whether it might later cause disturbed behavior in adults.

Such a hypothesis seems reasonable, he said, as applied to findings in disorders such as schizophrenia.

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## Questions

ASTRONAUTICS—How long in time and mileage was the first U. S. space trip? p. 307.

PSYCHIATRY—What does the name "psychotic character" given to Hitler mean? p. 310.

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