

British Science Making Progress In Finding Place for Imbeciles

BY DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York — (U.P.) — British science is making progress in finding a place in the sun for imbeciles. Two of its psychologists have just found reasons for believing that imbeciles are not as imbecilic as science has supposed. Imbecility hardly is a detectable subject, but it's an increasingly important one. In countries with advanced medical science, imbeciles are increasing in number. Infants who once died of such congenital defects, now enter childhood and in due course become adults.

There are three rough classifications of mental defectives. At the bottom are idiots, for whom there can be no place. They're utterly incapable of caring for themselves or doing anything constructive. Above them are imbeciles, and above imbeciles are morons who generally are capable of existing more or less independently.

Capable of Interest
In the last few years, the British have reversed two age-old concepts of imbeciles by showing (1) that they will respond to incentives and in a way direction not unlike that found amongst normals, (2) that imbeciles are capable of intense and even sustained effort with little or no supervision.

The psychologists, Dr. A. D. B. Clarke and B. Fless Hermelin, have now demonstrated that imbeciles after training can reach a productivity with simple, useful work which is comparable to that of normals. They trained six "who seem to be a fairly representative sample of young adult institutionalized imbeciles."

Two could hardly talk. Three could not name colors although all could match colors. Four didn't know how old they were. Two couldn't count and only one could count above ten. "Thus," reported the psychologists in the medical journal, "The Lancet," "in all respects these are typical imbeciles."

They were trained in three tasks: cutting insulated wire into lengths of 10 inches each; soldering four differently colored wires to the correct terminals in a television plug; assembling the parts of bicycle pumps. In learn-

ing each task, they began haltingly and progressed very slowly. But they acquired both dexterity and speed.

Higher Limits
"It was not so much the end-level that distinguished their performance from that of normals, as the length of time required to achieve it," the psychologists remarked.

They agreed that "no one would deny that the imbecile taken at 'face value' gives the impression of such impairment

that little can be done for him." But "the limits to the trainability of imbeciles are very much higher than have been accepted traditionally either in theory or practice."

To take the imbecile at his "face value," was to "ignore his potentials." They thought that theirs and the other studies showed many imbeciles could be trained to "perform certain useful tasks and to contribute in many cases substantially to their support."



MRS. MARCUS GOES HOME—Dr. Sanford Marcus bends over to talk to wife Hanna, lying on gurney, as ambulance attendants prepare to lift her into ambulance for trip home from hospital. Mrs. Marcus is still weak from shock of losing her new-born baby Robert, kidnaped from the hospital's nursery.

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — What's new in Washington:

John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers, frequently sneaks off on trips without telling his office where he's going. Once he went all the way to San Francisco. When he didn't show up at the office last week, some UMW officials assumed he was off on another of his unscheduled trips. But it turned out that the 75-year-old Lewis hadn't gone far, just to a local hospital for a "routine checkup."

Rep. Peter Frelinghuysen Jr., the Republican from New Jersey, cracks in his newsletter that the lawmakers, if possible, ought to eliminate the last two weeks of the session. There is, he said, nothing but confusion

in the closing days. The lawgiver didn't say where his colleagues should file the lost two weeks.

Sen. Milton R. Young, the North Dakota Republican, is a little embarrassed about his trip to Moscow. He had along a movie camera and was doing right fine with it. All of a sudden he was invited to the Kremlin to meet the high command. He asked a guide if it was okay to fetch along his movie camera. The guide said that would be fine. So Sen. Young shot and he shot and he shot. And when he got back to his quarters he started to remove the precious film. But he had forgotten to load it.

Washington's change back to standard time gave one disk jockey a bad night. Les Sands of WWDC found himself on an all night show. On the changeover, which happened at 2 a.m., daylight time, he found himself knocked back to 1 a.m., meaning that he had to work a whole hour for nothing.

One of the happiest cops in Washington is Lt. Tom Onofrio, now that the kids are back in school. Not that the lieutenant has anything against the young set. It's just that the youngsters gave him a bad time during the hot spell by swimming in some of the pools around the Capitol. They delighted the tourists by dipping for pennies. But that didn't delight the copper a bit. He was diving most of the summer for the youngsters.

Coquille Mill Opens After Boxcars Arrive

Coquille — (U.P.) — Arrival of 10 freight cars over the week end enabled Coquille Plywood company to open its doors again yesterday. The plant was shut down last Friday due to lack of boxcars for shipping.

Sales manager Stan Sherwood warned, however, that the plant would have to suspend operation again on Wednesday if no more cars arrive.

He said Southern Pacific railroad was making every effort to obtain more cars.

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Marcus Baby May Be in New York State

Waverly, N.Y. — (U.P.) — State police set up roadblocks near here today on a tip that the kidnaper of the infant son of Dr. and Mrs. Sanford Marcus, of San Francisco, Calif., was seen in the area.

Police set up the alert when a Sayre, Pa., man reported seeing a California licensed car in Waverly about 6 p.m. yesterday.

Arthur Maurer told police the car was carrying a man and woman. His description of the woman tallied with that of the kidnaper.

Maurer said he did not see any baby in the car, which was headed west on a secondary road south of route 17 along the Chemung river.

State police here said a check with California authorities on the description of the wanted woman, tallied with Maurer's.

The Marcus baby was kidnaped from his hospital crib a week ago yesterday.

Ten counties in the United States each produced more than 10,000,000 tons of coal in 1953.

Jewel Trader Murder Victim

Granville, Ill. — (U.P.) — Authorities believed today that John Redshaw, internationally-known jewel and gun trader, was shot to death by one or more persons he "knew and trusted."

The 60-year-old gem expert was found Monday, lying in a pool of blood in the vault of his office. A machine gun which he had apparently grabbed to protect himself lay by his side.

A small safe was open and empty. Redshaw was known to keep his most valuable gems in the safe and an inventory was launched to determine the value of the killers' loot.

Experts from the State Crime Laboratory were also called into the case.

Redshaw built a small trading business into a project which required him to build several warehouses around Granville. It was known that he recently had thousands of dollars worth of precious stones in his possession.

State's Atty. W. T. Boyle said Redshaw had apparently bro-

Braves Dump Don; Taxi Driver Gets Him

Milwaukee — (U.P.) — A caddy picked up a fare at the County Stadium on an afternoon when the Milwaukee Braves knocked Don Newcombe, Brooklyn pitcher, out of the box in the fifth inning.

The game was in the last inning and the passenger wanted to know if the driver had a radio so he could get the final score.

"I can't get you the score," the caddy said, "but I know we got rid of that Newcombe today."

"Maybe the Braves got rid of Newcombe, mister, but you haven't got rid of him yet," the passenger said, laughing. "I'm Newcombe."

ken his usual practice of not opening his office before noon in order to let his murderer inside the renovated bank building he used as headquarters.

This led Boyle to believe the gem dealer was killed by someone he "knew and trusted."

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday, 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Florence Chadwick Quits Channel Swim

Dover, England — (U.P.) — Florence Chadwick abandoned her second attempt to swim the English Channel non-stop to France and back today because of high winds.

Her navigator ordered her out of the water only five hours and five minutes after she began swimming toward France from the foot of Shakespeare Cliff near Dover.

A stiff northwesterly breeze whipped up heavy waves beyond the protection of the Dover Cliffs.

The waves were so rough that it took 20 minutes for her trainers to pull her out of the water. They feared she might be smashed against the side of the boat.

She had been in high spirits when she left Dover to make the attempt.

Portland — (U.P.) — Chairman Marion T. Weatherford of the Oregon Wheat commission told the Chamber of Commerce members forum yesterday the state's wheat growers would benefit by a two-price plan for wheat.

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