



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

In Most of our Inventions Nature Did it Better
It's a little embarrassing sometimes to look around us at manmade inventions and realize that these ideas we are so proud of have been in use by most of Nature's subjects for untold ages, and in the majority of instances Nature has done it better.

The electric light, one of our greatest accomplishments, is a poor substitute for the "cold light" of the firefly and many deep sea creatures. Those animals use what man

has never been able to duplicate—actual light without heat.

The bat, the only mammal in the world that can fly, something that man will never be able to do, uses a "radar" system. It is part of the standard equipment of every bat.

By Jet
The octopus has always traveled by jet propulsion. The wasps have been making paper and pottery since the world was young. They also used transparent substances for windows. Spiders have been floating through the air on balloons of silk long before we got off the ground. And, too, they gave us the idea for guy-wires.

Sound waves to transmit signals are old stuff to the woodpecker who discovered a long time ago how to use a sounding board in order to send a message over a greater distance. The rabbit does the same thing by thumping his hind feet on the ground.

All the resources of modern industry struggle constantly to make a good insulation material. But if you think carefully about it for just a moment, you will realize that fur or feathers are about the most efficient insulators known. Man's much advertised imitations are taking a terrific beating; none of them has even come close.

Diet, Too
Diet is another subject on which we have spent much time and money. Sometimes we think we know all about it; that we can prescribe foods for special wants and needs. But in this field, too, we are behind a long way as proved by that mysterious substance called "royal jelly," made and used by bees.

This "stuff," administered in a way understood only by these insects, can increase the number of bees, the growth and even the sex of the ones being fed the mixture. And this feeding goes on in a hive that is "air-conditioned" by the insects themselves.

The lowly termite, as well as the ants, bees and wasps, have perfected an organized society and a government of "thought control" and brain washing that makes dictators' experiments look like a "last year's bird's nest."

There are hundreds of other examples equally startling. So, if at times you feel like throwing out your chest and patting yourself on the back with a "look-what-we-can-do" expression, better look around you. Nature probably did it first and better. Looks as if we are just a bunch of "copy-cats."

Builder Perfects Boat Control Item
Morrilton, Ark.—UPI—Edson P. Williams, a boat manufacturer, has moved his trade one step nearer automation. He has perfected a push-button device to guide a boat by remote control.

Williams gave thought to the unlucky member of a boating party who spent most of his time clutching the steering wheel to the exclusion of his fishing.

The device permits the operator to hold a little black box in his lap, push buttons to control direction of the boat, and still have time to fish.

Williams now is concentrating on what he thinks will be the ultimate in boat automation—voice control. He says he is certain that he can perfect voice command eventually.

"It will be just like calling your dog," he said.

API Suggests Children Help

New York—UPI—What to do with children on a long motor trip?

The American Petroleum Institute suggests giving them responsibility to keep them contented on long road journeys.

Have one of them take charge of the road map and call off turns at the right places. Have another start looking for a pleasant place to stop now and then.

If these aren't feasible, start a game. Have them see how quickly they can spot license plates from all 50 states or get the primary colors in license plates.

A little planning can make a great difference in the enjoyment of the trip—for both parents and children.

WATER NEEDS
About 3,750 gallons of water are needed to raise a beef steer.

Medical Schools Have Trouble Getting Students

By LeROY POPE
United Press International
New York—UPI—The business of being a doctor is better today than it ever was—yet medical schools are having trouble getting enough students, medical experts report.

Moreover, hundreds of towns are begging medical societies and welfare foundations to help them get a doctor to locate in their communities. They offer financial help and promise him a lucrative practice. Many a small town doctor nets \$25,000 a year, and the profession is about the highest paid in the land.

The doctor shortage, which has been getting worse ever since 1950, became more acute this summer when a crackdown by various medical and hospital associations forced 4,000 unlicensed European and Asiatic internes and residents off hospital staffs.

These foreign-trained doctors failed in examinations last spring to show sufficient professional qualifications or knowledge of English to keep their jobs. Another 5,000 foreign-trained doctors passed the examinations.

But the crackdown may keep 1,500 to 3,000 foreign doctors from coming to the United States in the next year. Couple this with the fact that American medical schools are getting one-third fewer applicants for admission than they did in 1950 while the population has gone way up, and the experts said, the doctor shortage assumes alarming proportions. It is made even worse, say the medical society spokesmen, by the fact that the average American goes to see the doctor twice as much as his parents did.

The American Medical Association alone got just under 1,000 requests last year from communities asking help in getting a doctor. Other medical societies got such requests although certainly not so many as the AMA. Dr. Walter Wiggins of the AMA says a small town has virtually no chance of attracting a doctor nowadays unless local groups help financially to set him up in practice.

Farm organizations and some big corporations have taken an interest in the matter. Sears, Roebuck and Co., for example, has helped a number of communities to get doctors.

The strangest thing is to find the medical schools, which only a decade ago were desperately expanding facilities to make room for qualified applicants clamoring to get in, now advertising for students.

Applications actually dropped from 22,279 in 1950 to 15,172 in 1958. Money is the biggest reason. It costs an average of \$47,000 to educate a general practitioner and \$84,000 to educate a specialist. That is not all out of pocket expense to the young doctor and his parents—but the cash outlay over 10 to 12 years may be \$20,000 just for a G.P. Then he must set up in practice.

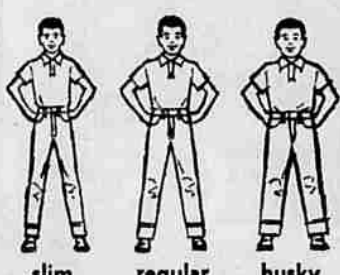
Next, too many youngsters think they can't make it. They imagine medical schools won't look at an application from anything less than an A-minus student. Fact is 65 per cent of all medical students come from the "B" ranks and 16 per cent were only "C" students as undergraduates—yet many of these make good doctors, medical school records show.

The medical profession's constant fear is that the doctor shortage will lead to government controlled socialized medicine. They hope to see the scholarship approach, financed by government and business jointly, used to solve the doctor shortage with the scholarship-aided doctors becoming private professional men—instead of government employees.



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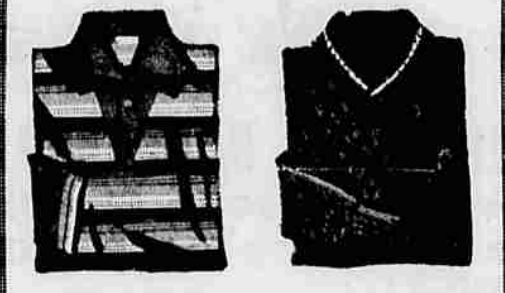
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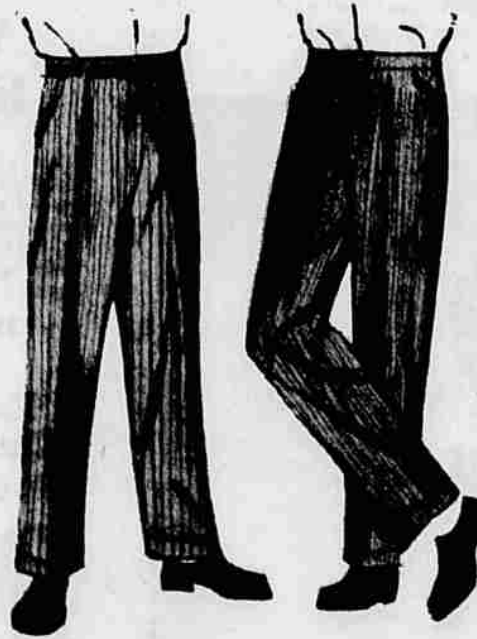
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