

Health & Happiness

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MADRAS

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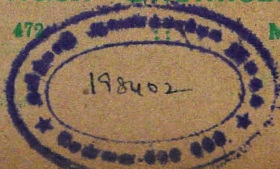
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The British Chemical Works,

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THE YEARS OF THE LOCUST

This ancient enemy of mankind threatens the food supply of one fourth of the world

That friendly grasshopper out in your garden is cousin to one of the deadliest enemies of the human race: the locust. All through history locusts have been the scourge of mankind. Now they are threatening the entire food supply of one fourth of the earth's inhabitants.

The worst locust plague of modern times struck the Middle East in 1951-52. In Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia every green and growing thing throughout hundreds of thousands of square miles was destroyed. This year the plague extends all the way from the jungles of central Africa to the foothills of the Himalayas. The 400 million inhabitants of India and Pakistan are in the threatened area. This summer looks like a critical one.

The grasshoppers in your garden are comparatively harmless because they are few in number. But in hot, semi-desert countries, when forage is abundant, certain species start to multiply. Proximity excites them and they breed more rapidly. They eat more; the more they eat the more they breed. The process goes on and on and the numbers rise to astronomical figures. Sometimes in a breeding area there are 5,000 eggs to the square yard. And a breeding area has been known to cover 1,88,000 acres.

From these breeding areas the swarms migrate. A large swarm may number 500 million, and destroy 200 square miles. There is a record of one swarm that covered 2,000 square miles,

A swarm has been found 4,000 miles from where it was hatched. Another was sighted at sea 1,200 miles from the

nearest land. They have been known to cross 15,000 foot mountains

The grasshopper-locust flies like a plane. He has two sets of wings: the outer, rigid set is held in the position of a plane's wings; the soft inner wings vibrate rapidly and serve as propellers.

The tiny but powerful jaws of the locust are one of the most destructive forces in nature. Stand with me in a green field of grain on a bright, sunny day. A small dark cloud appears on the horizon. It grows fast, like an oncoming storm cloud. Soon the sun is blotted out, and the air vibrates with a deep humming.

Suddenly the whole swarm settles. The sun appears again, but now the field has changed from green to brown and its whole surface is crawling. The locusts work slowly but with devastating thoroughness. They eat grain, leaf, stalk—right down to the bare earth. When the swarm rises and flies on, the green field has become a desert.

Europe, having few great plains, is the only continent which has not suffered severely from locusts. South America is in constant warfare with them. Recently Brazil was invaded by a column of locusts 60 miles wide. Flying at nine miles an hour, it required four hours to pass a given point. It blocked roads, stalled trains, invaded houses—and destroyed 60,000 tons of wheat.

In the United States hundreds of homesteaders were driven off their land by the locusts during the 1870s. Since then the plague in Western America has abated

But if it were not for measures taken by the Government, grasshoppers would almost have ended farming in half a dozen western states.

The first organized, world-wide effort to combat locusts was started in England 25 years ago. In 1923 a severe plague broke out in British East Africa. Promptly, a research centre was set up in London, a headed by Dr. Boris Uvarov, a White Russian scientist who was one of the first to study the locust problem.

Uvarov probably knows more about locusts than anybody else in the world. He has charted the places of origin and the movements of the great swarms. The data are accumulated for him by scouts throughout most of the locust-ridden countries in which Great Britain has interests.

With the information gathered by his scouts Uvarov plots enemy movements like a general. If the scouts report that a great swarm has hatched in Arabia and is headed towards Pakistan, the Pakistani Government is warned and is supposed to deal with it on its own.

Sometimes, however, the local government needs help. In the great locust war of 1951-52 in the Middle East the chief help came from Great Britain and the United States.

This campaign started in the arid uplands of East Africa. Swarm after swarm winged north and left swaths of destruction 100 miles wide across Ethiopia and Eritrea. They took the Red Sea in their stride. The vast deserts of Arabia, thousands of miles of empty sand, didn't stop them. They flew across the Persian Gulf and fanned out over Iran, Iraq and Jordan.

On April 13, 1951, the U. S. Department of Agriculture received a plea for help from Iran. Ten days later Bill Mabee, who had been in charge of locust control in Nevada, was on his way to Teheran with eight Piper Cub planes

manned by American pilots. He carried with him a large supply of a new poison called Aldrin, which had been wonderfully effective in the American West: two ounces, dissolved in a gallon of water, would spray an acre, kill nearly every locust on it.

Mabee quickly organized his campaign. Natives on camels and in radio-equipped jeeps would hunt the swarms. A swarm that has descended for the night doesn't take off next morning until the sun has dried the insects' wings. So the strategy was to locate a swarm when it alighted and get word quickly to Mabee. The planes were dotted about the area; the nearest one would start spraying at dawn.

The 1951 campaign, a fair success, saved most of the Iranian crops. Then, with a worse invasion predicted for 1952, the United States gave Iran six planes, and U. S. locust fighters began teaching Iranian pilots to kill locusts. Supplies of Aldrin were stored at strategic points throughout the Middle East.

Spring of 1952 came, and so did the locusts—more than ever. All spring and summer Bill Mabee kept flying where the insects were thickest. One week he'd be on the River Jordan, next week he'd be 3,000 miles away. He worked in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Jordan Iraq and Iran. Meanwhile the British locust-control forces were at work in the same area. Locusts were killed by the ton.

But the end is nowhere in sight. Now that the hot weather is here the third campaign of the locust war is on in earnest.

In spite of the billions killed there are probably more locusts in the world than there were a year ago. A day may come when the nations will have to unite in the fight against the insects for the survival of the human race.

THE DOCTOR LOOKS INTO YOU

A PHYSICIAN notes a vague shadow on the X-ray of a patient's stomach. A life may depend on an accurate diagnosis. Some years ago there was no way to decide except by surgery, but nowadays, with the aid of an instrument called an operating gastroscope, a physician can see hidden conditions and give treatments which often do away with extensive surgery.

The gastroscope is but one of dozens of endoscopes (Greek for "look inside"), each designed for a particular job. These instruments are slender, rodlike devices which can be slipped into the stomach, bronchial passages and other body cavities. No medical instrument has improved so rapidly as have endoscopes in the past few years.

Thirty-four inches long, and smaller in diameter than the little finger, the gastroscope is among the highest expressions of the instrument maker's art. Its upper portion is rigid, its lower half flexible—so it can slip into the stomach, which is at an angle in the body. A brilliant electric-light bulb, the size of a grain of wheat, is at the tip. The gastroscope contains 29 optical elements, so that the physician can see, no matter how the barrel bends and twists. Although the optical elements may be no larger than a pencil eraser, they are ground to the same precision as lenses and prisms used in bomb sights and microscopes.

Essential gadgets are packed into the gastroscope's pencil-sized circumference. An air system connects with a rubber bulb, enabling the physician to inflate the stomach like a toy balloon; disease might lurk in hidden folds. Down the instrument's shaft is slipped a pair of tiny, nipping forceps with which the physician can snip off a bit of any suspicious tissue. Study by a pathologist helps to determine whether it is a cancer that should be

The amazing, slender, rodlike device which can be slipped into the stomach, bronchial passages and other body cavities for diagnosis or treatment.

surgically removed or an ulcer that will heal if given proper care.

How can anyone but a professional sword swallower get this instrument down his throat? Actually, three out of four patients have no difficulty. First, nerves are calmed by an injection of morphine or a barbiturate. A gargle of a novocain-like drug deadens the gag reflex in the throat. Then the head is drawn back to provide a passageway as straight as possible and the tube is gently inserted. The examination usually takes only five to 15 minutes.

In general, all endoscopes work in the same manner. First, the sheath—a slender hollow tube—is introduced. A variety of instruments can be slipped down its barrel: telescopes which see in a forward direction, at right angles and to the rear; grapple—hooks, irrigation and suction devices; pea-sized electromagnets used for picking up metal fragments. There is even photographic equipment for taking pictures of the interior of the stomach and other organs.

Of all this family, the bronchoscope is best known. It is regularly used to retrieve marbles, whistles, peanuts and other things children have sucked down their windpipes. This instrument has another lifesaving use. Fluid often collects in lungs during surgery, and in times past frequently spelt pneumonia and death. Today it is sucked up through a bronchoscope in a matter of seconds.

These almost unbelievably versatile instruments even perform surgery—through an incision little larger than a

pencil. In tuberculosis a lung often adheres to the chest wall, so that it is impossible to collapse it and try to heal tubercular lesions. This condition once called for drastic surgery. Today, if such adhesions aren't too extensive, they can be severed quickly and easily with a thoracoscope. Through one tiny incision, the physician introduces a slender viewing device. Through a second, he inserts a tube equipped with a high-frequency electrical cutting loop. Watching with one instrument, he works with the other—cutting adhesions electrically as accurately as he could with a knife.

He can stanch bleeding with an electric cautery loop or he can introduce a swab of adrenalin through the tube. At the end of the operation he may, if he wishes, wash out the chest cavity with saline solution. All this is accomplished through incisions which heal in days instead of the weeks that might be required if the chest were entered by usual surgical procedures.

In many cases stones in the bladder can be disposed of without major surgery by means of a cystoscope. After the cystoscope is introduced, the bladder is inflated with distilled water to aid the surgeon's vision. Then he introduces a

tiny stone crusher. Delicate in appearance, the jaws of the crusher can exert pressures up to 780 pounds per square inch! Pulverized stones are flushed out, and the patient goes home shortly afterwards—instead of being faced with a long stay in the hospital.

Until the cystoscope was perfected some years ago, doctors diagnosing a kidney disease found difficulty in determining which kidney was ailing. Today, with a cystoscope, the surgeon inserts a catheter in the tiny passage from bladder to kidney and takes samples of the urine secreted by each kidney. Analysis tells which organ is diseased.

The principle of the endoscope was first suggested by Philip Bozzini, of Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in 1805. A variety of crude devices to focus light from reflecting mirrors through a tube into the body were later developed. All had the same drawback: enough illumination could not be reflected into body cavities to permit good vision. Development of the instrument had to await modern technological developments, such as minute light bulbs and intricate lens systems. But today's endoscopes, enabling better diagnosis and treatment, are making dramatic contributions to medical progress. ★

HEREDITY

The No. 1 pickpocket of New York was riding in the subway when he felt a hand on his wallet. He whirled about and confronted a pretty female face which, it turned out, belonged to the No. 1 pickpocket of Chicago. The discovery of their respective identities provoked a lot of technical talk, and she admitted that her technique had been bungling.

One thing led to another. They met frequently, and finally they got married. Pretty soon a child was expected. Of course, coming from such distinguished forebears, this child couldn't miss being the No. 1 pickpocket of America. But, alas, the boy was born with a deformity. Its right hand was tightly clasped and nothing would make it open. Obviously

with such a handicap it could never become a great pickpocket. The best medical men and surgeons could do nothing.

In desperation, the parents took the child to a psychiatrist. After trying all the conventional methods for relaxing such a tension, he decided to discard the scientific stuff and try something primitive. So he took a gold watch on the end of a gold chain and, holding it six inches or so over the little closed hand, swung it back and forth. Gradually, the hand began to open, bit by bit.

You should have seen the amazed expressions on the faces of the astonished parents. For in the hand was an object—the midwife's wedding ring!

THE ROLLIGON

It Floats, It Climbs, It Crawls

THE FIRST time William Albee ran over a person with a rolligon, it was accidental. A small crowd of friends had gathered to watch him drive a contraption which rolled along on four outsized, inflated sausage balloons instead of wheels. The vehicle slithered across a swamp, crawled over large rocks as if they were pebbles and wobbled up a series of steep sand dunes.

At this point one of the gallery, a former bullfighter, capered in front of the moving machine, pretending it was a bull. He slipped in the sand—and Bill ran over him.

"Two tons of steel slid across his body before I could stop," Bill relates. "I thought he was a goner."

But the victim bounced to his feet crying something like, "Oh! Try it, everybody! It feels so good!"

Albee was as astonished as anyone. Then, on reflection, he hit on the reason. It was that the rolligon's soft, squashy bags spread the vehicle's weight evenly over the entire body.

The rolligon is in the earliest stages of development. But the pneumatic roller-bag principle on which it is based is perhaps the most important transport development since the invention of the wheel.

The U.S. Government has spent over a million dollars testing the vehicle for mass-transport of troops on roadless wilderness areas. Rolligons have proved that they can navigate economically over snow, sand, ice, mud, swamps, rock, brush and broken glass, in all kinds of weather.

The rolligon story begins in Alaska's Bering Strait one spring day in 1935, when Bill and Ruth Albee were teachers at an Eskimo settlement. Bill and ten Eskimo friends were returning from a walrus hunt in skin boat. The Eskimos, while Bill watched, blew up a number of tightly-sewn sealskins into squashy pillow-like bags. Then, using these bags as crude rollers, the Eskimos tugged the five-ton boatload of walrus meat up a steep, loose-gravel bank and over some good-size rock with apparent ease.

Albee thought little more about this until early in the Korean War. The U.S. Army, though highly mobile, was bogged down in the rain-gutted roads and Korean paddies. Lieutenant-General Albert Wedemeyer, then U.S. Sixth Army commander in San Francisco, asked Bill, an old friend, "Couldn't you work up something along the line of those Eskimo rollers you were telling me about once? Mightn't they move our heavy stuff across those rice fields?"

Bill bought six cheap rubber toy footballs at a store. Then, in the Wedemeyer's living room, he inflated them until they were just squashy. He and the general turned a heavy Chinese coffee table upside down, resting it on the footballs, Ruth Albee and the general's wife improvised an obstacle course on the rug with paperweights, ash trays and book ends. Then the general and his lady boarded the table, holding fast to its legs, while Bill rolled them smoothly to and fro over the test course on the rubber footballs.

"Better get busy, Bill," General Wedemeyer said. "It looks as if it might work."

Albee drew his first designs of what looked like a good modern version of the Eskimo roller-bags, made of thin, rubber-impregnated nylon fabric; flexible, so that they'd flatten out and remain pliable like the sealskins, but also non-stretchable. In Washington, the then U.S. Under Secretary of the Navy, Dan Kimball, showed interest and arranged for Bill to see various U.S. Navy officials and rubber-company executives.

"It looked as if my worries were over," Bill now says, grinning. But in machine-gun succession seven leading rubber companies turned the idea down. For weeks Bill plied to and fro between various rubber plants and Washington. The U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps showed interest in the bags' possibilities, but offered no contracts without working models.

Finally Goodyear agreed to build two sample bags according to Bill's designs. So, with the first "flotons" in hand, the Albee garage became the centre of rolligon development. Eventually it was found that power applied to the bag's upper surface through the platform rollers "pushed" the bags ahead, hooplike, with excellent traction. By carrying its load directly upon its soft bags, the rolligon no longer needed the conventional rigid steel skeleton of springs, shock absorbers and hub-and-axle system between ground and payload. Eliminating this produced a vibrationless motion.

After demonstrations with various models, the U.S. Army Transportation Corps ordered four large-size test vehicles, which were designed, built and on their way to Greenland in nine weeks. There they competed successfully against orthodox and other experimental vehicles submitted by major manufacturers. Where wheels and tracks tore up and rutted snowy surfaces, the rolligon's gentle bags rolled lightly over them, actually smoothing and improving the track.

Rolligon units built so far haven't been designed for speed. Yet their top rate of 14 miles per hour cross-country is thorough-

ly acceptable. Albee sees higher speeds solved by proper bag design and by controlling bag inflation from the driver's cab through hollow, non-load-carrying axles—tightly inflated bags for highway speeds, soft bags for cross-country. Already Bill Albee's rolligons have lifted and transported heavy pontoon-bridge sections for U.S. Army engineers.

People watching the rolligon perform nearly always ask, "What happens if you get a puncture? Does the bag explode like a balloon?"

It does not. Since the bag's low pressures expel air very slowly, an ordinary leak sometimes requires as much as a day or two to show. Even fairly large ruptures may take several minutes to deflate a large bag.

What will tomorrow's rolligon do? Some agricultural experts predict that in addition to its military employment, the rolligon's influence on farm techniques may reach farther than even the tractor-tread add the tyre did in replacing the horse.

Bill Albee's dream is to make economical, sure, mechanized transport available to anyone, anywhere—as it is now available along the world's highways. After all, six out of seven square miles of the earth's land surface have no roads.

An impossible dream? "The next time anyone tells me it can't be done," Bill says, "I may just lie down in front of a big rolligon and let it run over me. That's 'impossible' too."

When my five-year-old niece, Evelyn, was going to spend a few weeks with her grandmother, I was packing her clothes. In another bag she was packing some games and toys. "You might take a few story-books," I suggested.

She returned with three books: "Little Black sambo. Peter Rabbit and Child Guidance."

"You don't want that Child Guidance book," I said.

"Oh yes, I do," she said resolutely. "Grandma still believes in spanking!"

BUTCHER IN THE DEEPS

By WILLIAM KARNEY

The Cataclysmic war of the future will see that employment of the super submarine on a larger scale than ever before. It is the one type of sea-going vessel which can't be easily dealt with by rockets, by planes or jets. Super submarine refers not to a gigantic undersea craft, but rather to a small, high-speed, almost undetectable under sea ship which is self-contained by virtue of its snorkel breaching apparatus, and which moves beneath the water on engines which may in themselves employ some sort of jet principle like the squid it emulates. Such a submarine will be almost a free agent.

And since any future global war such as we might engage in, will require the movement of vast amounts of materials by surface ship, such an under sea menace, can actually be the enemy's trump card. It must be combatted—but how?

Right now the most active department in nautical research is the anti-submarine group. It's not fooling itself. It knows that such a submarine is in the cards and it must be dealt with. Therefore every energy is being bent toward battling it. Detecting devices of every kind are won-

derfully improved and capable of sensing a lobster's wiggle at tremendous distances.

Detecting devices aren't enough though. You must be able to kill what you find! And the boys are grinding out gadgets for that purpose too. The latest wrinkle in a whole series of ingenious contrivances employ a shot-gun principle instead of the usual bull's-eye type.

Low-speed planes, perhaps even helicopters and blimps will fly over the area in which the submarine has been detected. Then from their bellies they will disgorge, not bombs, but high-velocity rockets, small ones, which will rip into the water in a scatter-pattern, dozens at a time, hoping to net and puncture the lurking sub. The small, efficient rockets, resembling bazooka projectiles need only touch the sub to punch a hole in it. Fuses will be so arranged to blow on contact.

The scatter principle of shooting, while seemingly more wasteful, is probably better in the long run. An evasive submarine is not easy to get with any type of weapon. And with under sea craft operating in wolf packs, perhaps they can be blown out of the water, as a shotgun blows ducks from a flight!

Life's Like That

Several months ago a friend of mine became seriously ill, and the doctor told him he had but a short time left. Soon afterwards, my friend began spending every spare moment in a recording studio. His only explanation was, "I'm doing important work." No amount of coaxing could bring further explanation.

A few weeks before he died he invited me to his home. Greeting me with the exclamation, "Well, it's finished!" he unlocked a cupboard, revealing rows of reels.

"What are those for?" I asked, "A film projector?"

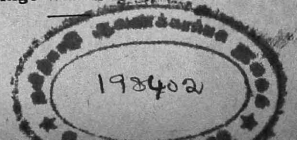
"No," he replied, "they're recording tapes. You see, I can't leave the children

much money, but I can help them to grow up. On these tapes I've recorded everything from bedtime stories to the facts of life. I want my youngsters to remember their Dad and feel he is close to them. In this way I'll be with them for a long time."

FAMILY SAVINGS:—Mrs. Addolorata Carbonelli, of Piedimonte, Italy, entered hospital for an operation, which was successful. But the surgeon was curious to know how the small bunch of keys, which he removed from her stomach, got there.

Her explanation was that she had swallowed them to prevent her husband from opening the safe and squandering the family savings which it contained.

32
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What Do You Know About Hernia?

By BERNARD ROSENBERG

HERNIA, or rupture—the protrusion of an organ or part of an organ or other structure through the wall of the cavity normally containing it—is probably the greatest single cause of rejection for employment. Yet, most men and women know very little about this devastating illness that affects some 6,000,000 Americans.

Here are some true and false statements about hernia. See what you can do with them. Encircle T if the statement is true, F if it is false. The correct answers are given below. Knowing the right answers may mean the difference between a good life or a sad one to you, a family member, or a good friend.

1. You may have a hernia and never suspect that it exists... T F
2. Only men develop hernias... T F
3. Only people who do heavy manual work get hernias..... T F
4. Hernias can be readily spotted by competent medical men... T F
5. Umbilical hernias—a protrusion at the navel—are more common in girl babies than in boy babies..... T F
6. Inguinal hernias—a protrusion in the groin—are more common in boy babies than in girl babies..... T F
7. Trusses can cure a hernia... T F
8. Trusses are usually prescribed for temporary hernia relief only..... T F
9. Operations are usually the only successful way to treat hernia..... T F
10. Old people cannot be operated on successfully for hernia..... T F

Answers: 1-T; 2-F; 3-F; 4-T;
5-T; 6-T; 7-F; 8-T;
9-T; 10-F.

NERVE CENTER ...

WITHOUT fanfare, and quietly, most major cities in the United States are organizing themselves in accordance with the suggestions of the government as given out in their latest release on defense against atomic warfare. While we hope that day will never come when such measures must go into action—we can't be sure and we must be ready.

The defense net for Chicago is a typical example of what is being organized. In the basement of a large science museum in Chicago (formerly occupied by the Atomic Energy Commission for the area) a huge plotting board is being readied. This plotting board is designed to absorb the reports of thousands of aircraft spotters located on the perimeter of the city. Large numbers of trunk lines lead into the building and just as the Londoners plotted the German raiders, so will this plotting board record the progress and location of aircraft in the Chicago area.

Manned by volunteers, this plotting board is really a secondary adjunct to the main defense unit—a radar station. Somewhere (it is highly secret) in the Chicago area, hidden is some elaborate camouflage in a complete short and long range radar station employing the latest radar equipment. The information delivered by this station coupled with that provided by the volunteer civil unit, will be able to great work in the eventuality that the city is struck from the air by a potential enemy—from the North!

Canada too, is preparing its cities in a similar fashion. Consequently reports from its cities will be available to the Chicagoans and other New-Yorkers and Detroiters etc. Slowly but surely a vast warning network is being built up. It won't stop atomic bombs, but it certainly will make their deposition a lot harder for an attacker!

—By JUNE LURE

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| Fast and loose | surrender to love |

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Wicked we love
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Tropical passion

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The wound of love
Reckless passion
The harem
Slameless honeymoon
The jungle of love

Dark night to love

Tombolo
The judas kiss
Time for pleasure

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The doctors woman

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Do not continue to suffer from any skin or blood disease when you can get a complete cure from Zemro. Do not delay but write now for it. The new improved formula gives wonderful results. Prices :- One bottle Rs. 5 three bottles Rs. 14 six bottle Rs. 27. postage etc. extra. Order direct from The British Chemical works: Post Box No. 472 Madras-7. Write for free booklet about Zemro. See second last page.

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22
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