

# SCIENCE IN YOUR LIFE



**Battling Blindness**

In a play by the famous English poet John Milton, the Biblical hero Samson mourns his blindness for condemning him "to live a life half dead, a living death." Milton wrote feelingly with real knowledge—for he too was blinded when he was still in the prime of life.

Men in every age have shared Milton's horror of blindness. The affliction is particularly tragic today, however, for in this time of increased medical knowledge, it is all too often an unnecessary one. "One-half of the nation's total sightless persons might be able to see if they or their parents had taken proper precautions," states the U. S. National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Eye infections should always be treated with care for they can, if unattended, cause blindness. A particularly dangerous period, medical experts inform us, is infancy, when the eyes are most delicate and susceptible to infections. Such infections, according to U.S. statistician Louis Dublin, rank among the chief causes of blindness in the U.S. Fortunately, science has made vast strides both in preventing and treating infections

in the eyes of new-born babies. One of the more recent advances has been the use of the broad-range antibiotic Terramycin for this purpose. Medical specialists have found Terramycin free from the side-effects of silver nitrate, hitherto routinely applied to a new-born baby's eyes to prevent infection. The drug, tested on 1,700 infants at Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn, saved two out of three babies from "pink-eye" or conjunctivitis, according to a medical report. In laboratory tests, Terramycin has also proved more effective than silver nitrate in killing the micro-organisms that are the commonest cause of eye infections in the new-born.

## Washington Report

**SCIENCE.** A group of senators headed by Senator Thye of Minnesota last week started a movement to encourage the training of more scientists.

Under a resolution introduced by the group, including Senator W. Kerr Scott, a special joint committee of Congress would make a far-reaching study of why the United States is lagging behind in training young scientists. The proposed committee would also cooperate with private industries and recommend ways the Federal government could help in producing more teachers and students of science.

**BEHIND.** "We are in good shape right now as far as actual working scientists are concerned," Senator Scott said, "but we are lagging far behind in turning out new scientists. In fact, our best information coming out of Russia today indicates that the United States is graduating only about one half as many scientists and engineers from colleges and universities as the Soviet Union. This means that dark days are ahead unless we take drastic steps immediately."

It is becoming increasingly difficult, Scott said, to find teachers of mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology. At the same time, fewer and fewer students are taking their majors in these and related fields.

**GRANTS.** Scott said that in recent years the Federal government has increased its activities in the field of scientific research by boosting financial grants to individual scientists and colleges and universities.

"It may be wise," he said, "to explore the possibilities of doing something similar for students and teachers of the basic sciences. But the ways and means are not nearly as important as positive action."

**QUOTES.** The November 14, 1952, issue of U. S. News and World Report makes some interesting reading for those who are inclined to think about what has been happening in the past four years.

The issue of the magazine in question was published in a matter of days after President Eisenhower had been elected by a whopping vote.

In part, it said: "Inflation is ending. Dollars gradually will be harder to come by. Deflation, of a moderate kind, will be accepted, not resisted.

"Pay, at present rates, will seem better as cost of living declines.

"Farm work will be more attractive in another year."

## Letter to the Editor

Two years ago when renewing our subscription, I made the remark that except for my electric service bill this paper is the biggest bargain in our budget. That still goes. E. C. and I both look forward to each issue just like mail from home.

Our kindest regards to all of you.

Bill Marley

## SMILE AWHILE

Television has been described as a device that permits people who haven't anything to do watch people who can't do anything.

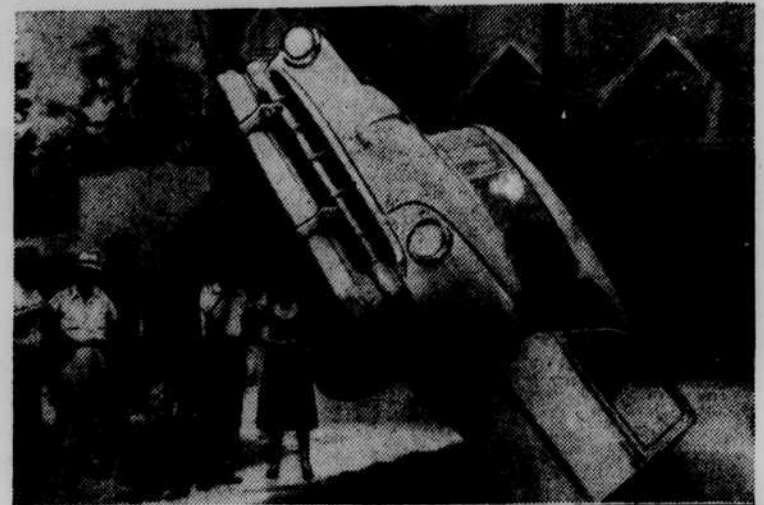
"I'd like to buy a comb," she said.

"Do you want a narrow man's comb?" asked the clerk.

"No," she replied, "I want a comb for a stout man with rubber teeth."

## Getting Up In The World

**IT WAS A WOMAN DRIVER!** Kennett, Mo., policeman holds chin in disbelief as Mrs. Harrison Clay, Flint, Mich., explains how she drove car up guy wire where it hung at this precarious angle. Damage to car—bent hub cap.



**STILTED CONVERSATION**—These two carnival performers make sure they have no "eavesdroppers" while relating some tall tales on a London street corner. The occasion was a festival in Soho, a famed quarter of London.

(World Wide Photos)



**EASTER LILY BERMUDA STYLE**—Susan Selley, 19-month pretty youngster looks up to this giant Easter Lily. Susan would have to travel up 6 ft., 7 in., to reach the top of this stalk which grew wild in sunny Bermuda.



**HIGH ALTITUDE PUSH**—These two operators of International TD-24, 200 hp, 20-ton bulldozers, seem to be trying to out-push each other. Actually, they are helping to build a road on top of a mountain for the U. S. Marine Corps near Camp Pendleton. Over 65% of the 320,000 cu. yds. of material being moved is rock, but it is child's play to these two giants.



It should be safe now to plant most warm season vegetable crops anywhere in the state east of the mountains. Tomato, eggplant and pepper plants should be hardened before transplanting to the field by withholding their water supply; that is, by keeping them on the dry side for a few days.

Try some of the new bean varieties this year. Wade, Contender and Seminole are excellent varieties and they are almost immune to mosaic which sometimes reduces the yield of Tendergreen considerably. Improved Stringless Blue Lake is an excellent pole bean, especially good for canning and freezing, and it is absolutely stringless. And then we have the popular Kentucky Wonder.

It is time to talk about sweet corn again. There are a few gardeners who still plant early varieties of field corn for roasting ears because the ears are large and there are not many earworms. However, once you have given real sweet corn a fair trial you will not be satisfied with field corn. There is no comparison in edible quality. Recommended varieties for both fresh use and for freezing are Seneca Chief, Golden Cross

Bantam, and Ioana. These are all yellow varieties and are widely adapted. Corn is wind pollinated and therefore it is best to plant in blocks of two to three rows rather than in a single row.

Emphasis is still being put on icebox size watermelons. The New Hampshire Midget variety which grows to the size of a cantaloupe has become quite popular in the home garden. Hills may be spaced as close as five feet apart. A fault of this variety is that it becomes over-ripe very quickly. The best of them all, in my opinion, is the Japanese or Hybrid Seedless melon. It will average from 8 to 12 pounds in weight, and is of excellent quality. There are seldom more than a dozen mature seeds in a melon. The rest of the seeds are undeveloped and may be eaten with the melon. Seeds for planting are quite expensive this year — from six to eight cents per seed — but the results are worth it.

"I can mix castor oil with orange juice so you won't even taste it," said his mother.

"Good," said Johnny. "I hate orange juice."

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