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Hypnotism Aids In Treating Diseases

By DELOS SMITH
 UPI Science Editor

NEW YORK (UPI)—If in the laboratory you can produce a reaction in a human being's body

by acting upon his mind, you can figure people must be constantly doing it to themselves since their minds are exposed to be acted upon by anything which happens

to come along.

Dr. H. C. Bethune did it in his laboratory. He hypnotized a man who was so hungry his stomach was demonstrably in spasm. Bethune convinced the man there was a wonderfully delectable dinner in front of him and he was eating it. It was entirely a hallucination but his stomach contractions ceased.

He hypnotized other persons and told them that intense heat was being directed against their ears. There was no directed heat at all, of course; just the same, their ears became hot and this was factually demonstrated with thermometers.

Cites Skin Diseases

All this makes it reasonable to suppose Bethune has exposed in all nakedness the working parts of psychosomatics which give untold millions of people endless trouble, to say nothing of the physicians they befuddle with their mind-induced physical ailments. The mind believes its body to be ill, you see, and the body accommodates with symptoms.

The best-known and most-studied examples of this are in certain skin diseases. The ugly eruptions are on the surface for anyone to see. No one could possibly dispute the physicalness of the ailment. Yet it has been proved that people can produce the symptoms with their minds.

Bethune was working in the main scientific stream of psychosomatic investigations in his laboratory at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. A current theory is that "organ inferiority," either inherited or acquired, is involved. This "inferior organ," whether skin or stomach or some other part, becomes the target of misdirected emotional "high drive."

Bethune and his associate, Dr. Cecil B. Kidd, applied his laboratory feats to four persons with plainly physical skin diseases which had persisted for years. Some had relatives given to the same diseases and one could suppose nothing could be more physical.

Divert Emotional Drive

The four were hypnotized one by one. By suggestion made to them in their hypnotized states, the scientists endeavored to divert the emotional "high drive" away from the target organ, the skin. They tried to do it by distorting the perceptions of the four of themselves. In all four the "cure" worked — the skin eruptions cleared.

Now, these skin diseases have been "cured" by hypnotic suggestion before but the method has never shown consistent results. That is, it works in some but fails in most. The scientists emphasized in reporting to the medical journal, *The Lancet*, that they did not claim real cures.

"All these patients still have this underlying skin anomaly or organ inferiority which predisposes them to their own particular malady," they said.

What they had done was to direct emotional "high drive" away from the target organ by inducing perceptual distortion under hypnosis. In their words, they exposed "a mechanism whereby psychological stresses can produce skin lesions in areas of somatic weakness." It now remains to be seen if other scientists can exploit the "mechanism."

Modern Etiquette
By Roberta Lee

Q. How can a divorced woman who uses her maiden name include "Miss" in front of her name when sending out her daughter's wedding invitations?

A. She should not be using "Miss" in front of her name, for just such social reasons as this one. However, in this case, she can put "Mrs." in front of her maiden name, and give her daughter's full name in the invitations.

Q. A young neighbor woman has begun calling me by my first name, although I am quite a bit

Hi-Way Trailer Court News

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hutter, of Indianapolis were recent visitors in the mobile home of Mr. and Mrs. David Brown, 63 Bella Casa. They were former residents of the Hi-Way Trailer Court.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Earl Jones have added another trailer to their mobile home, 57 Windale Trail, and many other improvements have been made in the court.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bell, Jr., and daughter Ailsa, 59 Bella Casa, spent Saturday and Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bell, Sr., at South Milford.

R. Edwin B. Bishop, 27 Star Lane, program director of the Anthony Wayne council of the Boy Scouts of America, has been very busy here during Boy Scout week looking after his special duties.

Mr. and Mrs. Letcher R. Bryant of Greenville, Ohio, spent Sunday with Rev. James R. Meadows and wife, 24 Krick St.

older than she. I use her last name. Shouldn't she use my last name, too?

A. Yes, she should. You should be the first to begin a first-name basis of friendship. However, if I were you, I shouldn't resent her evident efforts to be friendly with you.

Q. I should like an emerald, instead of the traditional diamond engagement ring, but have been told this is not proper. What do you say?

A. You may wear any kind of ring you wish. In fact, you would be "just as much engaged" if you wore no ring at all.

20 Years Ago Today

Feb. 22, 1942 was Sunday and no paper was published.

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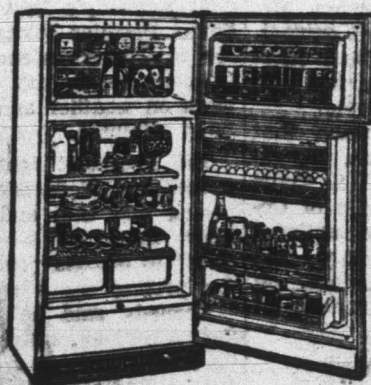


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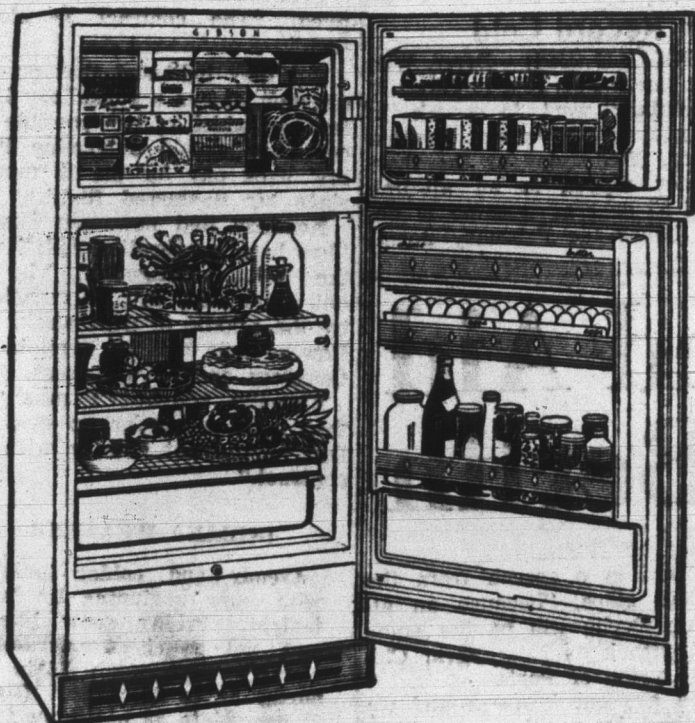
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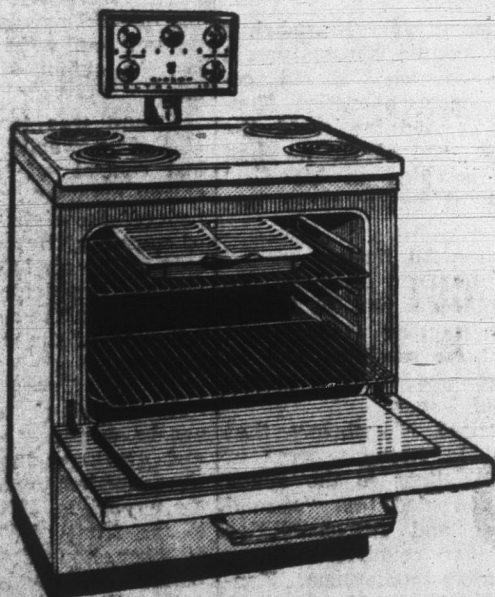
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