

Science, potato breeding on the Nilgiris, inquiry into the trade in cocoanuts and coconut products, locust research, water hyacinth control, dry farming schemes, goat keeping, 'quality' in crop investigations, malting of cholum, fruit research schemes, research on virus diseases, are some of the schemes referred to in the Report. As already indicated, however, nearly all the schemes have been going on only for short periods and some have hardly begun. Moreover the Report

itself, latest as it is, appears to be very incomplete; so rapidly have the activities of the Council been expanding and so many are the new schemes taken up since the period covered by the Report. The Council is gradually approximating in scope and organisation to the Federal Department of Agriculture in the U.S.A., and we have no doubt that the Council will succeed in doing as much for our agriculture as the U.S. Department is doing for the American farmer.

NEWS

DIET AND CRIME

... "The belief that violence and crime are products of improper diet is being promoted by a growing number of individuals. This belief, rejected as unfounded by the consensus of scientifically trained health professionals, appears to be accepted as 'fact' by many educators, probation officers, social workers, criminologists, and legislators. Recently, some correctional facilities, homes for delinquent youths, and even some schools have been pressured to make changes in available foods based on the belief that there is a proven link between diet and criminal behavior. However, a causal relationship between diet and crime

has *not* been demonstrated. And, diet is *not* an important determinant in the incidence of violent behavior. . . . Dietary improvements based on established information are desirable. However, dietary changes based on popular but erroneous beliefs are unjustified and can carry considerable risk to the physical and social health of individuals and society."

[(In *Journal of the American Dietetic Association* 85(3):361-2, Mar 85). Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 24, June 17, 1985, p. 14 (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

DEATH FROM OBESITY DISPUTED

... "A panel convened by the Natl. Insts of Health [NIH] recently proclaimed obesity a 'killer' disease. . . . According to Paul Ernsberger [Cornell U. Medical Coll], the NIH report is simply wrong. 'Fatness is *not* associated with a higher death rate,' he says. 'In fact, in every given population examined, the thinnest people have the highest death rate.' The new NIH panel 'flatly contradicts' previous reports of the same data, the well-known Framingham Heart Study, he adds. 'The fact is the very fattest women in Framingham had a lower death rate than women who were at their "correct" insurance table weights.' The heaviest Framingham women, ranging from 40% to

172% over the [1959 Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. Height & Weight Table], had lower mortality than both underweight women and women within a few pounds of their 'desirable' weight. The *lowest* death rates, Ernsberger points out, occurred in women who were between 10% and 30% over the insurance tables . . ."

[(Carol Sternhell (New York U.) in *Ms.* 13(11).66-8, 142-6, 154, May 85 [pd 2803]) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 28, July 15, 1985, p. 14 (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]
