

FRENCH AUTO TRUCKS GENERATE OWN GAS

The high cost of gasoline is driving French firms operating large fleets of trucks and busses to seek other types of fuel. One response to this need has been the development of portable gas plants using such materials as powdered coal, saw-dust and powdered charcoal for the production of a gaseous fuel which may be used instead of the costly liquid kinds.

One or two types of "gazogene", as the new apparatus is called, utilize low grade gasoline and crack it by heat, but the majority of them use the powdered solids. So far no type of "gazogene" has been evolved suitable for pleasure cars, for the apparatus is comparatively bulky and has no more beauty about it than an old-fashioned airtight stove; but for the larger vehicles its use is becoming increasingly popular. About seventeen firms have placed "gazogene" models on the market.

RESEARCH OF PYORRHEA SUPPORTED BY CARNEGIE CORPORATION

If anything can be done by science to save our natural teeth from being replaced by better looking ones made by the dentist, it is likely to be found out in the next five years at the University of California, for that institution has received a fund of \$105,000 for a thorough investigation of pyorrhea and its relation to other human maladies, to be carried out by the joint cooperation of experts from various fields of science. Of this sum \$85,000 comes from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Besides this new field of somatological research the annual report of the Carnegie Corporation issued announces the continuance of the support of investigations of insulin. This hormone has already come into general use as a remedy for diabetes and has perceptibly reduced the death rate. New grants of \$10,000 each are made to the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, and to the University of Alberta, Canada, for research on insulin. Besides these the University of Toronto receives \$8,000 and the Potter Metabolic Clinic \$15,000 for insulin work.

SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH VISIT LONDON ZOO

One of the latest curiosities to arrive at the London Zoological Gardens is a pair of fighting fish from Siam.

Normally this fish is quite dull in colour, but when another male of the species draws near, its body suddenly glows with the most brilliant metallic colors mingled with scarlet, purple, and gold. The two males fight desperately until one or other gains the victory. The conqueror then parades up and down in all his gorgeous war panoply, which only gradually changes back to the original drab color.

In Siam the breeding of fighting fish is an important industry, and large bets are made on the result of fights, conducted under rules as stringent as those of cock fighting. It is not often that a fish comes twice into the arena because even if victorious he is usually so seriously damaged as to be unfit to fight again.