

USEFUL PIGMET NOW MADE ELECTRICALLY

Electrical means for manufacturing carbon black, a widely used pigment, have been devised by the Bureau of Mines U. S. Department of the interior. Carbon black consists of exceedingly finely divided particles of carbon, and is at present produced by burning natural gas with an insufficient air supply, and permitting the flame to impinge on a cool metal surface. This method has been found strongly objectionable in many communities, and stringent ordinances have been passed to regulate its manufacture.

Inasmuch as carbon black is in great demand in the manufacture of printed ink, shoe and stove blackings, phonographs records, black leather, typewriter ribbons, carbon paper, and many other articles, a method for manufacture that does away with the objectionable though inevitable dirtiness of the present process has been much desired. The Bureau of Mines process involves the use of high voltage discharges from electric arcs acting upon cheap light-oil distillates.

ARABIAN INSECT PERFECT FEMINIST

Utter carelessness in the care of her children because she can always tell where they are is the chief characteristic of an Arabian water beetle described in a lecture by Major R. E. Chessemann. Catching her husband unawares this militant female plants her eggs securely in the middle of his flat back where he cannot knock them off. Then she goes on about her business. When the eggs hatch the young grow heavier and heavier until the poor husband beetle can hardly crawl along. The one observed by Major Chessemann was a living baby carriage as he had no less than ninety babies firmly attached to his back.

ASTRONOMICAL BOUNDARIES LEGAL, SAYS SURVEY BOARD

That boundaries determined by the imaginary lines of latitude and longitude are quite valid, the opinion^{was} expressed at a meeting of the U. S. Board of Surveys and Maps. A member raised the question whether the courts would recognize these astronomical lines as legal, on the same basis with the true geographic positions that come through careful adjustments by triangulation. A. D. Kidder, who occupied the chair, stated that from his own experience he had found that the courts are hardly able to distinguish between positions as determined by the two methods.

Mr. Kidder called attention to the fact that a great many of the boundaries of the western states were defined as certain parallels of latitude or meridians of longitude, and that the effect of that definition was to cause the survey of those boundaries according to the best information available at the time; but that after a line had been surveyed and monumented and the survey approved, the line itself became the controlling boundary rather than the astronomical line originally named.

Because the demand for crimson clover seed precedes the arrival of the new crop seed by several weeks, the early offerings are all from seed held over from the previous year.