

is a "one man" car and is operated from the driver's seat through electrical connections.

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#### NEW KIND OF LIGHT SUPPLIED BY CHEMISTRY

"Chemiluminescence" is the term applied to a new kind of light caused by chemical reactions which involve no burning or combustion. The practical application of this principle has been worked out in a factory in Hungary where a tube has been devised in which chemiluminescent reactions can be carried out in a vacuum.

The materials which have thus far proved most successful in this capacity are chlorine gas and sodium vapor. These two elements brought together in this form combine to produce sodium chloride, or common table salt, giving off in the process a brilliant yellow light. About one-tenth of the energy involved in this reaction is converted into light.

It is expected that such tubes will find practical use for special scientific experiments and among surgeons, due to the fact that the light they give off is of only one color and not composed like ordinary daylight of all the colors of the spectrum.

An idea following somewhat similar lines has been devised in this country for making luminous compounds. According to a patent recently granted, the phenomenon of phosphorescence can be produced by the reactions of two classes of substances known as "luminophores" and "phosphorogens" with a base of some mineral carbonate and combustible material like starch or sulfur. Luminophores are compounds of the lighter metals such as sodium and potassium, while the phosphorogens are compounds of heavier metals like silver, nickel, and the radioactive uranium and thorium. These latter make the limestone base phosphoresce and the former impart the desired color to the glow.

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#### DANISH SCIENTIST STUDIES EELS OF PACIFIC

The man who found out where the eels of Europe and America go when they disappear in the fall has set out to solve a similar problem in the Pacific Ocean.

That the breeding ground of the common fresh water eels of both countries overlap in a section of the Atlantic south of the Bermuda Islands, a location thousands of miles from their summer homes, was ascertained largely through the researches of Dr. Johannes Schmidt of the Carlsberg Laboratories of Copenhagen. For the last twenty years he has been studying young eels picked up in nets from points all over the Atlantic, working much of the time under very primitive conditions. The young eel larvae of both the American and European eels are hatched in the mysterious Sargasso sea. How these elvers know which continent to make for when seized by the migratory urge to reach fresh water is a question the scientists refrain from answering but according to Dr. Schmidt there is no record of their ever having made a mistake

Having settled the question of the common fresh water eels which breed in the Atlantic, he has now turned his attention to those found in the Pacific and Indian Oceans about which there is very little scientific information available. He has just spent two months in Tahiti where he has collected a large mass of material and data that will be worked up and studied on his return to Copenhagen and from which it is hoped valuable information of the life history of the Pacific eels will be obtained.

During his stop in Washington Dr. Schmidt was made an honorary member of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

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#### OIL OF WINTERGREEN FOUND POISONOUS INTERNALLY

Oil of wintergreen, commonly used in salves and liniments, is extremely poisonous when taken internally even in moderate doses. Drs. N. C. Wetzel and J. D. Nourse report that quantities of less than two fluid ounces have resulted in death.

The toxic effects of this familiar drug, in frequent use in medical practice to allay pain and reduce fever, seem not to have been generally recognized. They are ascribed to the fact that oil of wintergreen, after being taken into the body, undergoes very little chemical destruction, or breaking up into less dangerous components.

Editorial comment in the Journal of the American Medical Association says that from the standpoint of public welfare, "Access to oil of wintergreen should be made impossible for children and for persons ignorant of its poisonous properties."

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#### MACHINE CLEANS APPLES BY SLAPPING

Wiping machines are the latest wrinkle to be added to the mechanism of fruit packing. The Apples Growers' Union of Washington is one of the first to install this apparatus which is designed to remove spray residue from apples packed during the season of 1926.

The fruit will pass over horizontal revolving rollers and is slapped clean by 500 pieces of canvas. The machine is electrically driven and provided with a fan to remove dirt and dust.

This invention is doubtless designed to counteract the impression that seems in some regions to have gained considerable ground that poisoning has resulted from the arsenic residue left on apples during spraying.

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Czechoslovakia is one of the world's chief producers of plate glass.

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