

## PERMANENT PAINT FOR IRON DISCOVERED BY SWISS

The annual loss to the world due to the rusting of iron runs into many millions of dollars, and the problem of its prevention is being studied by scientists in all civilized countries. Zinc, tin, nickel, ordinary lead paint and many other things are useful preventives, but they do not last, and have to be re-applied more or less frequently.

A remarkable discovery is now announced from Switzerland. Dr. A. V. Blom, of Berne, has made a new lead paint which affords complete and permanent protection to iron. This paint is of a very special character; it is made by melting lead in an electric furnace and blowing through it air and certain reducing gases, so that a dross or scale is produced which consists of colloidal or extremely finely divided lead dispersed in yellow lead oxide. When it is powdered and mixed with a specially prepared linseed oil, and applied to an iron surface, very minute particles of lead separate out and gradually penetrate into the surface of the iron. The presence of the lead in the treated iron has been proved by photomicrographs and by chemical analysis. Iron objects painted with this new pigment have not shown any signs of rusting after prolonged exposure, or after being heated in steam. This discovery may lead to extremely important developments.

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INJURY EPIDEMIC THREATENS HEALTH GAINS

Rejoicing over the lengthening of the average span of life from 41 to 56 years during the last few decades should be tempered by the fact that the death rate in the age group above 40 is increasing, Dr. J. Howard Beard, of the University of Illinois, claimed recently in warning students of the need of better health.

"The gain in the expectancy of life is almost entirely due to the saving of lives under 35 by the better control of communicable diseases and by infant welfare work," he said.

"At the ages of 45 to 50 there are four more deaths per thousand than 20 years ago; at 50 to 55, six more; and at 55 to 60, eight more," he pointed out.

There is a real danger that the net gain in lives saved from infection will be lost because of the increasing number of fatalities from accident, Dr. Beard believes. He states that an epidemic of contagion is being superseded by an epidemic of injury.

"Whether or not the average length of life shall continue to rise will be determined by how much each person will permit science, education, and religion to influence his habits, control his desires and direct his action," Dr. Beard added in conclusion.

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The belief that stars can be seen in the daytime by looking down a deep well is untrue.  
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