good things, flourish and increase in these tropical regions.

The conviction that I am walking in the New World is even yet marvellous in my own eyes, and I dare say it is little less so to you, the receiving a letter from a son of yours in such a quarter.

Believe me, my dear Father,
Your most affectionate son,
CHARLES DARWIN.

Science News Letter, December 19, 1931

ENGINEERING

Wear on Tires Measured By Use of Depth Gages

RESEARCH to determine the amount of rubber eaten from automobile tires by hungry highway surfaces during carefully controlled test runs was reported to the Highway Research Board of the National Research Council meeting at Washington by A. A. Anderson and H. B. Wright, highway engineers of Chicago.

Sensitive gages used to measure the decreasing depth of the tire tread proved to be the most accurate means of checking wear. The tires were also weighed at the end of every thousand miles, but this method of determining the loss of rubber proved ineffective because the tire weight varies with weather conditions such as temperature and humidity. The engineers found that data on front wheel tires varied so much that the figures were worthless while readings on the rear wheels remained uniform.

From runs of more than 3,000 miles on non-skid asphaltic concrete and on Portland cement concrete it was found that the tires wore less on Portland cement than on the asphaltic pavement, the report stated. To get uniform wear Mr. Wright and Mr. Anderson increased tire pressure four pounds per square inch above the recommendation of the Tire and Rim Association.

Other conclusions show that increase in temperature from early morning to noon may be enough to swell balloon tires and make a car that ran smoothly at eight o'clock bounce uncomfortably at twelve.

Science News Letter, December 19, 1931

American chestnut trees, which have been so widely destroyed by fungus blight, appear to be developing resistance, since new shoots from roots of trees killed by the fungus are growing rapidly and even producing fair-sized crops of chestnuts.