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Newest and one of the most beautiful attractions at Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park is this Twin Pool which spurted out of a dry terrace last summer. Before long its colored waters covered the entire plateau shown here and gradually new terraces began to appear on the slope where the spring overflowed. The community, part of which appears in the valley in the background, is Mammoth, park headquarters.

PHYSICS

## May Yet Tap Atom's Energy, Yale Scientist Declares

**M**AN may yet tap the atom for an almost unlimited store of energy, Dr. Ernest C. Pollard, Yale physicist, predicted. (*Yale Scientific Magazine*).

"Probably not, but yet—maybe" is the way he answers the query as to whether there will be practical release of energy from the atom. The key to such cheap energy would be the conversion of matter into energy, which is theoretically plausible. If atomic energy were achieved the dreams of the ancient alchemists who hoped merely to turn lead into gold would fade into insignificance.

"The conversion of mass into energy involves multiplying by the square of the velocity of light," Dr. Pollard explained. "This gives us such huge figures that the question arises: Can we make the energy available? It seems as though the fact that the atom's nucleus is so small must mean a huge waste of particles in transmuting it so that the energy

is bought at a high cost, and yet the past five years have seen transmutations brought about on a millionfold greater scale. If we could multiply yet again by a hundred million then we might be successful."

Radioactive analysis may some day supplant ordinary chemical analysis, Dr. Pollard also predicted. Many elements have been produced in radioactive form and if every element can be made radioactive, the progress of chemical reactions will be traceable with a degree of refinement hitherto unattainable.

Because radiations, like X-rays, affect living things, changing the heredity of plants and animals, Dr. Pollard foresees that high energy radiations may enable man to anticipate evolution.

*Science News Letter, April 17, 1937*

Egyptian peasants today use farming methods very like those used in the time of the Pharaohs.