

potash would have been in this list and there would have been much worry over the fact that Germany had a monopoly. But discovery of large high-grade deposits in New Mexico has practically guaranteed our self-sufficiency.

Other minerals, like graphite of the "chip" and "flake" varieties, this country lacks in those particular forms, while others, like chromium ores and manganese, do not measure up in metallic content or freedom from impurities.

If America could not get tungsten for its incandescent lamps our electric light bills would be a million dollars higher daily, yet the tungsten used in lamps in a year is worth only about \$200,000.

Science News Letter, August 7, 1937

BIOLOGY

Neutrons Are More Potent Than X-Rays For Sterility

IN experiments that involved sending a dozen albino mice by air express from Bar Harbor, Maine, to San Francisco and back again, it was demonstrated that neutron rays are five to six times as effective as X-rays in producing sterility in the male.

Dr. Paul C. Aegersold of the University of California Medical School, exposed the mice to streams of neutrons in the famous Lawrence neutron producing machine, while Dr. George D. Snell of the Roscoe N. Jackson Memorial Laboratory at Bar Harbor furnished the mice and conducted the biological experiments. (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* July.)

This superior effectiveness of the neutron, atomic particle discovered in 1932, checks with experiments that show neutron radiation to be similarly more potent when directed at cancer cells.

Further experiments are expected to throw new light on the size and structure of the genes, the minute elements within the germ cells that determine hereditary traits.

The sterile period produced by the irradiation treatment extended from three to 12 weeks after the raying.

Science News Letter, August 7, 1937

To study how roots of fruit trees grow in the soil, a British scientist has designed observation trenches fitted with plate glass windows.

Finding a scrap of a glass bowl made about 2000 B. C., a Swedish archaeologist reports that glass was made in Egypt five centuries earlier than supposed.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Uncle Sam Hunts America's First Human Inhabitants

W.P.A. Workers Dig on the Abbott Farm, New Jersey, To Settle Issues of Famous Scientific Battle

UNCLE SAM is joining in the hunt for the most elusive people in America—our Ice Age inhabitants, if any.

Scene of the hunt is a farm near Trenton, N. J. Works Progress Administration workers, directed by well-known archaeologists, Dr. Dorothy Cross and Dr. Eugene Golomshtok, are digging for evidence there, where the last ice sheet left its debris of gravel when it melted back toward the northland.

Were there—or weren't there—human beings already roaming America in those days, when the Ice Age ended? That is the most fought-over question in American science. If the answer is yes, then America has been inhabited at least 15,000 years.

Naturally, a country wants to know who its first inhabitants were, how long

ago they arrived. But for America this has proved a baffling, long-drawn-out mystery.

Abbott Farm, scene of the WPA glacial-man hunt, has been famous in American science for over 60 years. As long ago as that, Dr. C. C. Abbott announced finding clumsy stone blades when he dug through black earth into a layer of yellow loam on his land. People who made the rude tools, he asserted, were older and more primitive than the well-known Delaware Indians who were in New Jersey when white men arrived.

In fact, Dr. Abbott was bold enough to suggest that these stone tools came to rest in the loam just above the glacial gravel in the very days when the glacier retreated.

That bombshell of an idea launched



PARTIAL BURIAL

Head-and-leg burials reveal a mysterious custom of New Jersey aborigines. Dr. Eugene Golomshtok removes one of these, wondering whether these Indians were cannibals or headhunters, or whether they merely felt that heads and legs were enough for a spirit existence.