

ENGINEERING

Best Non-Skid Tires Give Constant Road Contact

AUTOMOBILE tires with treads so designed as to give continuous contact with the road and provide for side drainage of water give the best protection against skidding, Prof. John M. Lessells of the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology reports. A tread with narrow zig-zag angular bars and with grooves for drainage "provides a greater co-efficient of friction on wet pavements," he asserts.

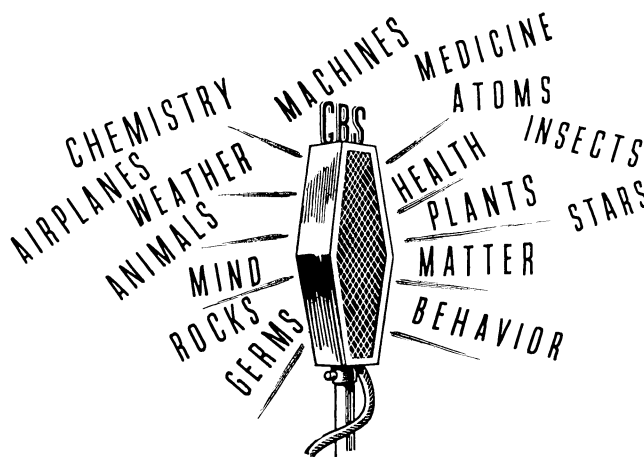
Such a tread if properly designed "acts as a windshield wiper to sweep the water from the road" in wet weather, Prof. Lessells finds. The provision of grooves for draining is necessary as a

layer of water actually serves as a lubricant between tire and road.

A special two-wheeled trailer towed by a truck equipped with a sprinkler provided the wet roads for the test, rain or shine. Two years were spent in the study, carried out by K. D. Smith and W. F. Billingsley of the B. F. Goodrich Company.

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