

U. S. Patent Office in Washington. Industrial chemistry makes its progress behind the protection of patents, with a large company like du Pont getting 20 new patents in a three weeks' period as it did recently, during August.

Guarded behind this patent wall is the newest type of elastic fiber recently invented by Peter J. Gaylor of Elizabeth, N. J., and with patent rights assigned to the Standard Oil Development Co.

The new elastic fibers of synthetic rubber are ideal for elastic threads for clothing since they do not deteriorate rapidly in the fiber form. Even with the use of inhibitors and vulcanizing agents ordinary rubber in threads undergoes deterioration, says the Gaylor patent (No.

2,170,439). Laundering, dying and cleaning all add to its quick loss of elasticity.

The new rubber-like material is synthesized by the polymerization of isobutylene to create polymers having enormous molecular weights of 200,000 to 300,000.

The material can be extruded as a thread or as a flat sheet which can be cut into narrow strips. While in solution dyes may be added to give the rubber-like fibers various shades.

The rubber-like fibers can be coated with a covering of silk, cotton, wool and the various rayons and woven into an elastic cloth. Fabrics resembling the covering materials—but highly elastic—can thus be secured.

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by their opportunity to continue the fight against injustice, ignorance, disease and wretched poverty. We may hope that the progress we make in overcoming these ancient enemies we share in common will later be helpful to others less fortunate than ourselves.

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SEISMOLOGY

**World's Earthquake Center Is "Somewhere in France"**

**T**HE earthquake center of the world is now "somewhere in France."

Almost since the turn of the century Strasbourg has been the seat of the international organization for seismology where earthquake reports are sent so that there will be one place where all of Mother Earth's shivers and shakes (natural, not war-made) can be recorded. Dr. E. Rothé, long secretary of the world organization, removed his records and some instruments to an unannounced location farther from the German border.

Then he came to America for the international geophysical meetings, but he spent only one day here, hopping a return ship when the crisis deepened. All his assistants and sons are in the French army. He alone intends to hold the earthquake line for the internationalism of science.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

**"Those Guilty of Starting War Are Traitors to All Men"**

By **DR. WALTER B. CANNON**  
President, American Association for the Advancement of Science

*Science Service asked Dr. Cannon as president of one of America's leading science organizations to comment on what war means to science and mankind. Dr. Cannon is professor of physiology at Harvard Medical School.*

**W**HEN confronted by war we must remember that the most universal and persistent enemies of mankind are moral degradation, ignorance and the heavy forces of poverty and disease. Against these powerful foes every race, every nation should be willing to struggle with untiring zeal. Any victory over them is a benefit to all.

Those who are guilty of starting a war between human beings are traitors to all men for in war it is these same persistent enemies which will secure immensely increased advantages.

Brutal injustice, hatred and lasting bitterness spread through great populations and drive out feelings of mutual respect and good will. Disease and hunger and privations make devastating inroads until hosts of innocent people are swept away in pestilence. Vast resources which might be used to bring enlightenment, comforts and conveniences into the lives of the less privileged are appallingly wasted in wanton destruction. Seekers after new knowledge which might be serviceable in lessening human ignorance and in increasing human welfare are

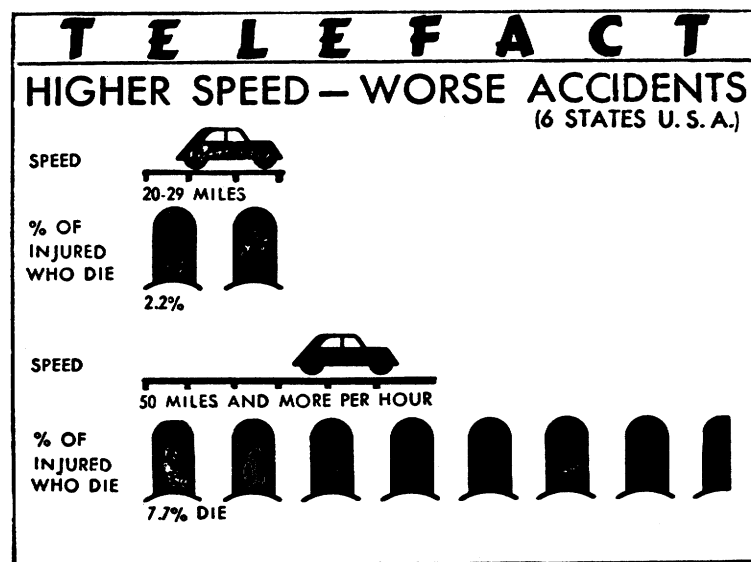
compelled to cease their free labors and concentrate attention on problems of military importance.

With tens of thousands of young men killed, there will be destroyed the lives of many promising leaders in the fight against the unresting enemies of mankind.

When the barbaric struggle is ended, these adversaries will still be ranged against us, more strongly entrenched than ever.

We who are not directly engaged in warfare against our fellows are favored

"Lost" fawns, small squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and other small animals and birds are as safe in their native habitat as a child in its cradle and should not be removed, wildlife authorities say.



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