

FOR BOMBER

This bubble-like dome of transparent plastic is undergoing its final polishing in the Rohm and Haas factory. Later it will form the rear gun turret of a bombing plane. Resembling an astronomical observatory dome, it is designed to permit the swinging of the machine guns in any direction. To the left is the transparent nose of a bomber, made of the same material.

cold. They can be trimmed with a saw. Another advantage is their lightness. Weighing 45 per cent of a corresponding glass structure, the saving, in a plane like the Martin B-26, which has

a plastic nose, rear-gun-turret, observer's dome, tail empennage and four fuselage windows, is enough to permit another bomb to "ride free."

Science News Letter, June 14, 1941

PUBLIC HEALTH

## Doctors Urge Change In Liquor Sales Methods

## Propose Warning Label for Every Bottle of Liquor Advising Moderation and Accompanying Vitamins

THE sale of alcoholic beverages should be made to conform to the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, by putting a warning label on every bottle, Dr. Leo Alexander, Dr. Merrill Moore and Dr. Abraham Myerson, of Washingtonian Hospital, Boston, declared before the American Medical Association meeting in Cleveland.

The medical profession, realizing fully that "alcoholism is the greatest single public health problem related to any drug," and already strongly supporting the federal Food and Drug Adminis-

tration "in its general operations and in its special task of protecting public health from intoxication and mental derangement following or associated with the use of any drug" should "firmly and uncompromisingly act" on this problem, the Boston doctors urged.

They stress that they are not prohibitionists and regard prohibition as a failure and obstructive to the real goal of temperance.

Alcohol is both a food and a drug under the definitions of the present Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, the Boston doctors pointed out, citing legal opinion.

"If the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act is designed to prevent, and to protect the American public and its health from the menace of drug intoxication and addiction, then it should apply to alcohol as its first drug of choice instead of neglecting and ignoring it altogether," they declare, adding "If one placed in a heap all the wreckage of human lives produced by the habit-formation implied in morphinism, cocainism, barbiturate addiction, and all the narcotic and hypnotic drugs put together, and if one were to balance against them all the habit-formation of disastrous type subsumed under the term alcoholism, the scale would shift immediately and unmistakably towards alcoholism."

They urge that the Food and Drug Administration require alcoholic beverages to carry a warning label just as this type of label is required by law for other dangerous and habit-forming drugs. They propose the following label:

"Directions For Use: Use moderately and not on successive days. Eat well while drinking and, if necessary, supplement food by vitamin tablets while drinking. WARNING: May be habitforming; not for use by children. If this beverage is indulged in immoderately it may cause intoxication (drunkenness), later neuralgia and paralysis (neuritis) and serious mental derangement, such as delirium tremens and other curable and incurable mental diseases, as well as kidney and liver damage."

"A sensible warning label will probably exert a wholesome influence upon the attitude of the community," the physician said. "At present only those who want to be enlightened can be reached by any educational program, and we can think of no better vehicle for carrying education to those who need it most than the label of the liquor bottle itself.

"There are many people who are afraid to take two aspirins at once for a cold, because of its possible effect on the heart. However, these people do not hesitate at all to take six high-balls in a row.

"We think this paradoxical discrepancy in public opinion and knowledge should be corrected."

Science News Letter, June 14, 1941

According to the 1940 Census the United States has over 5,000,000 people who have passed three score years and

Iraq's oil field is sometimes described as the largest single oil field in the world.