

New Machines And Gadgets

Novel Things for Better Living

Bacteriological culture tubes are now made with neat black screw caps composed of plastic, in place of the time-honored plug of cotton wool. The screw caps are said to reduce liability of mold, contamination and evaporation, to be easier to handle than cotton plugs and to save time and money.

Cracked highways are hard on tires and will be still more damaging to the semi-rubber tires we will soon be using. They can be prevented by using rock salt in the road base. This prevents freezing, which is the chief cause of the cracks. Rock salt is cheap and not subject to priorities. It has been used on a number of highways in the east, some of which have shown no frost damage for five years. More extended use would save tires and also save money in road repairs.

Wrinkle paint, that will give a pleasing wrinkle finish to metallic objects, can be obtained from paint dealers at a nominal price. The paint must be burned in, but the kitchen oven will do, if heated to 240 degrees Fahrenheit. A spray gun is preferable to a brush, and a light undercoat followed immediately by a second heavier coat gives better results than a single heavy coat. Baking can follow immediately and takes about half an hour.



These are goggles that really protect the eyes against flying missiles, hot sparks, even a light blow with a hammer. They are made of a tough transparent plastic which though clear as crystal, oddly enough is made from coal and petroleum.

Mobile power plants, mounted on trucks, railway cars or vessels, can be of great assistance when war's vicissitudes or natural disasters have interrupted the regular electrical service. Two 10,000-kilowatt plants mounted on railway cars have been ordered by

the Navy Department to be stationed, one on the East Coast, the other on the West Coast, to provide emergency power wherever their projects may require. A 50,000-kilowatt floating plant is projected. This would meet the electrical needs of a city of 150,000 to 200,000 population.

Safety goggles for fighting incendiary bombs are now to be had. They protect the user both from the intense light and the intense heat of the burning magnesium. The glass transmits 20% of the "seeing" light, stops all of the ultraviolet or sunburn rays and 88% of the infra-red or heat rays.

A field glass holder that supports the glass in front of the eyes, thus leaving the hands free for other uses, has recently been patented. The device includes a headgear composed of straps that go over and around the head. The holder is hinged to this headgear so that the glasses may be raised and clamped in position in front of the eyes or allowed to hang under the chin.

Lightweight dust masks have been provided for Uncle Sam's mechanized troops. The masks weigh only one and a half ounces, yet will exclude particles as small as 1/25,000 of an inch. Five hundred of these dust particles could be stretched across one of the periods used on this page. The masks are especially intended for the troops that follow the armored divisions—soldiers who generally march or fight in a cloud of dust.

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 94.

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