

# WHAT is it made of?

HOW OFTEN have you asked, "What is it made of?" only to be told "plastic?"

Well, of what are plastics made? We in the United States use them every day, in parts for radios, auto accessories, refrigerators, in packaging materials, in aircraft windshields and other transparent sections for bombers, fighters and transport planes.

"THINGS of science" shows you in this unit, something made of coal and natural gas, an article made of purified wood pulp or cotton linters and acetic acid, still another item whose fundamental base is petroleum. This unit includes a Medicinal Tru-spoon, golf tees, and a low-power magnifier. You will know after your study of them just what these and other plastics are made of.

As in all units of THINGS of science, this unit contains specimens of scientific material to be examined, studied, and enjoyed. Museum-style legend cards are supplied for each science object; a brief, clear explanation of the entire contents is included with suggested experiments. This service is under the sponsorship of Science Service, the non-profit institution for the distribution of scientific information.

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hopelessness of getting any reaction from the parents. Fear, jealousy, anger, were met with passive discouragement until the child learned that such emotions were useless. The daggers may illustrate the human tendency to turn such useless or repressed aggression against oneself.

However, this is all speculation, and Dr. Mead was careful not to draw un-

founded conclusions from her work in Bali. Everyone would agree, though, that these movies are a welcome change from the usual travelogue, in which the ceremonial dances are just too quaint and picturesque for anything. It never seems to occur to the travelites that all those darling customs may mean something dead serious to the people involved.

*Science News Letter, August 15, 1942*

## PHARMACY

# New Anti-Malarial Drugs Announced Ahead of Time

QUININE substitutes which will be official in the new U. S. Pharmacopoeia have been announced ahead of schedule, together with standards for their preparation because of the urgent need for protecting our overseas forces against malaria.

Due to the present shortage of quinine, two synthetics, pamaquine naphthoate and quinacrine hydrochloride, may be of special value in keeping our armed forces free from the disabling periodic fever. Hearings are now under way in

Congress on quinacrine patents which are alleged to restrict production.

Totaquine, another anti-malarial, will also be in the new official book of drugs. This contains the familiar quinine but is mixed with several other related substances also found in the cinchona barks. It is expected that this mixture can be obtained from native cinchona barks found in Mexico and Central and South America instead of our former source in Japanese-held territory in the Far East.

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## VETERINARY MEDICINE

# Nurses Germs to His Body During Freezing Flight

A SCIENTIST who nursed a tubeful of dangerous disease germs carefully with the warmth of his body during a freezing flight to England, as a mother might shield her baby from the cold, provides a war drama of science from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A vaccine is available to protect cattle against the deadly disease, brucellosis, contagious abortion which causes the loss of thousands of unborn calves every year, and also produces the persistent and debilitating disease known as undulant fever among human beings. It is made by chemical treatment of the disease germs themselves.

This vaccine was needed in Britain, for the protection of the island's cattle and maintenance of the food supply. Dr. C. K. Mingle of the Bureau of Animal Industry was assigned to cooperate with British veterinary scien-

tists in the production and distribution of the vaccine over there. With a tubeful of the virulent germs, he took off by bomber some months ago from Canada. A blizzard was raging at the time, and he kept the germs from fatal chilling by tucking the tube inside his flying suit, where the warmth of his body would keep the culture up to the necessary temperature.

Arriving in England, he found that a certain type of centrifuge needed in his work was not available. This also was flown over by bomber.

Everything is going smoothly now, Dr. Mingle reported on his return. The laboratory is making large quantities of the vaccine daily, with output still increasing. Production of milk and beef in Britain is expected to go up materially as a consequence of the protection to be given the cattle.

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