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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • JUNE 5, 1943



Alcohol Into Rubber

See Page 355

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Natural gas for domestic purposes is obtained by farmers in southeastern Ohio by drilling 400 foot wells into underlying coal seams.

The Peruvian government has established an official register of industrial *chemists* to promote national cooperation in chemical industries.

A new nine-million-dollar *toluene* plant has been completed in California for the synthetic manufacture of the main ingredient of trinitrotoluol (TNT) from petroleum.

Flax produces versatile fiber for fine fragile laces and tough tarpaulins, fire hose, fishlines and shoes; shoe soles stitched with linen thread resist mud and mileage best.

Ferrocolumbium, used for alloying with steel to make it more weldable, is produced from imported rare-metal columbium ore, now completely allocated by the War Production Board.

Crocote for preserving cottonwood and poplar *fenceposts* may be applied on the farm by standing them in a metal drum half full of the coal tar product and heating about two hours at 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

Port Orford cedar, sometimes called white cedar, is not a true cedar but is a false cypress; its durability and acid-resisting properties make it suitable for use as separators in storage batteries, Venetian blinds and boats.

Question Box

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BOTANY

How can poison ivy be identified? p. 365.

CHEMISTRY

How does moonvine juice aid in production of rubber from the castilla tree? p. 355.
How much rubber will eventually be produced annually by the new Government-owned plant? p. 355.

CHILD CARE

How can you tell whether the baby needs another sweater or blanket? p. 362.

DENTISTRY

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ENGINEERING

How can electricity be used to separate dry grain from wet? p. 361.

ENTOMOLOGY

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MEDICINE

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What does an excess of fat in your diet do to your blood? p. 364.

NUTRITION

What rations have been developed especially for the feeding of the hungry in Europe? p. 358.

Where does Germany get her citrus fruit? p. 361.

PHARMACY

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Where does a fourth of all Latin America's quinine supply come from? p. 360.

PHYSICS

How far can you see from the air? p. 362.
How many 100-watt lamps could be lighted with the current in a lightning flash? p. 360.

PHYSIOLOGY

What evidence is there that an enzyme destructive of red blood cells is always present in the body? p. 356.

PSYCHIATRY

How can Germany's mental ills be cured? p. 364.

How is hypnotism now used in the treatment of the mentally ill? p. 364.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How are workers protected against health hazards in the synthetic rubber industry? p. 356.

What effect has exposure to dust on chances of getting pneumonia? p. 359.

What measure is recommended to prevent lead poisoning among shipbreakers? p. 360.

RESOURCES

Where does the Axis get sulfur? p. 366.

Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

The *muskrat* lives primarily on roots and grasses growing in streams and lakes.

Fluid drive, similar to that of the automobile, is now used in machine tools in factories.

American *olivine*, a common mineral from which magnesium is recovered, has from 45% to 49% magnesia, a higher magnesium content than any other mineral except brucite.

A recent ruling of the War Production Board allows the use of only one wire staple to each copy of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER and is effective with this issue. Please inform SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N Street N.W., Washington 6, D. C., immediately if your copy is not received in satisfactory condition.

Phosphorescent coatings used on warships on or near valves, controls and instruments, enable men to find and use them during blackouts.

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