

## Do You Know?

A severe shortage of trained *metal-lurgists* is anticipated after the war.

Sweden is constructing a \$2,000,000 plant to make *artificial rubber*.

On many hand tools *plastic handles* have replaced those formerly of wood or metal.

Over 1000 different *chemicals* are used in building an army tank and over 2000 in making a battleship.

*Shellac* is the only commercial resin obtained from animal chemical reactions.

The thickest known *coal seam* in the world is in a mine near Cologne, Germany.

*Crude oil* production in Colombia, South America, was nearly 2,000,000 barrels, in March, 1944.

The *buri palm nut* of Brazil may become an important source of table oil; this palm is botanically *Diplothemium candescens*.

The *alligator weed*, one of the greatest pests in southern sugar fields, may be controlled by flame treatments, recent tests indicate.

RADIO

# Education by Radio

Young scientists and school clubs will play an important part in making this means of education pleasant and simple for adults and children alike.

► YOUNG scientists and school clubs will play an important part in making education by radio simple and pleasant for adults and children alike, Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass., predicted in testimony at the Federal Communications Commission hearings held in Washington to study the needs of various radio services in the postwar era.

Pointing to Science Clubs of America, a nationwide organization with a total membership of about 125,000 high school science students, Dr. Shapley stated that the young scientists of these clubs can play an important part in education by radio, if frequency modulation stations primarily for educational broadcasts are established in large enough numbers.

These school clubs can assist in the technical operation of local broadcast stations; be useful in working out the technical details of program production; provide local scientific materials appropriate for educational programs; and adapt for local use radio material supplied them by the national headquarters of the organization.

Science clubs have already successfully demonstrated their ability to participate in educational radio programs, Dr. Shapley stated. He cited the excellent work now being done by various science clubs participating in weekly Sunday morning programs broadcast by station WTAG, in Worcester, Mass. The subject material of the programs ranges from victory gardens to poisonous plants, and from discussions of the solar systems to gallinippers (insects).

Many adult citizens have learned through these programs that their community is well stocked with energetic young experts in many fields, Dr. Shapley commented.

There are now more than 5,000 individual Science Clubs of America representing every state in the union. From headquarters in Washington, D. C., under the auspices of Science Service, the parent organization, these clubs are provided extensive servicing and guidance without cost to the clubs themselves. Among the many activities of these clubs,

administered by Watson Davis, the director, and Miss Margaret Patterson, the general secretary, are the collection of rainfall data for the national Weather Bureau, and the location of sites for suitable airplane landing fields, Dr. Shapley remarked.

In addition to the science clubs, Dr. Shapley added that other school and community organizations, such as little theater movements, will provide local educational radio program material.

*Science News Letter, October 21, 1944*

INVENTION

## Electric Vaporizer for Head Colds Is Patented

► HOT medicated vapors, for inhalation in the treatment of head colds, sinus infection, catarrh and other head troubles, will be easily obtainable in the future with a hand-type electric vaporizer for which patent 2,358,349 has been granted to Joseph Robinson of New York City. It has been assigned to William R. Warner & Company, Inc., also of New York.

The vaporizer contains in combination a base, a switch terminal and electric cord, and a heater-container applicator unit seated on the base but which can be picked up separately from it. A nozzle for directing the vapors created is also included. The unit is so constructed that it retains the heat for a period after the unit is removed from its base.

*Science News Letter, October 21, 1944*

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