

for anti-G suits, which help prevent a blackout of vision during sharp turns and pullouts.

Small and lightweight, the new plane is extremely maneuverable through use of a hydraulic aileron boost and electrically operated flaps. It can carry heavy loads of ammunition, bombs and fuel, as well as photographic equipment for

aerial reconnaissance. The simplicity of its design eliminates most of the controls found in a conventional reciprocating-engine airplane.

The entire surface area of the new jet plane is lacquered to a high polish. This reduces the air resistance still further and gives it the appearance of a skyrocket of death cutting through the skies.

Science News Letter, March 10, 1945

AERONAUTICS

Many Uses for Helicopters

When perfected, they may aid power and oil line inspectors, aerial photographers, and find other industrial and governmental activities.

► WHEN the helicopter is ready for the public it will find many uses in industry and government, as well as in civilian activities, Charles I. Stanton, Deputy Administrator of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, stated in an address before the American Helicopter Society in Bridgeport, Conn. He declared that the CAA is encouraging and fostering civil aviation and in this respect it is not ignoring the helicopter.

He pointed out that the helicopter may perform many industrial jobs already planned for fixed-wing airplanes, and in many cases it will do them better. Certain types of photography, particularly low-level shots of single buildings, can be done best from a stationary vehicle in the air, he said.

"Dusting of small areas such as stagnant pools, small fields surrounded by high obstructions and other pocket-like areas falls automatically into the performance ability of the helicopter," Mr. Stanton commented.

Aerial inspection of power lines and oil lines, and the transportation of repairmen to the scene of damage can be accomplished by the helicopter, he suggested.

As still further illustration of the versatility of the "flying windmill," Mr. Stanton stated that in the widespread range country of our western states, the helicopter may be used to spot cattle on the range, locate lost herds, and take censuses of wild animals. It can also be used in hunting coyotes.

Lakes so deep in the forests that they are still unknown to the fisherman's rod can become the long-sought vacation spots of sportsmen who own helicopters. In the duties of national conservation, the helicopter can be used as a flying senti-

nel over our national forests. It can help extinguish forest fires by permitting fire-fighters to drop bombs filled with fire-smothering chemicals into the heart of the flames.

"Everyone from the Greyhound Bus Company to the owners of a single taxicab decided that the helicopter was the answer to their plan for the future," Mr. Stanton remarked in speaking of the possible uses of the craft for feeder line service.

He declared that he did not know how soon the problems confronting helicopter engineers could be solved.

"We realize that although the helicopter has gained tremendous impetus from the demands of war, it is also being retarded in certain directions, because of military expediency. We know that the present models are not for the inexperienced private pilot; and we know that they demand too much expert maintenance for general utility," Mr. Stanton explained.

Science News Letter, March 10, 1945

MEDICINE

More Medical Societies Cancel Annual Meetings

► AMERICA'S oldest medical society, the American Psychiatric Association, and many medical societies younger than this 101-year-old organization, are cancelling annual meetings scheduled for this year, the action being taken in cooperation with the war effort.

The American Orthopsychiatric Association, the Society of American Bacteriologists, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology which is made up of six scientific societies, and the American Public Health Association

are the most recent to announce annual meeting cancellations.

Members of these societies have all been contributing to the war effort both through fundamental research leading to advances in medical treatment and through application of these advances for the protection and healing of our fighting forces.

The American Psychiatric Association has held meetings every year since 1844 except in 1861, when it was recorded "no meeting held on account of the disturbing conditions of the country." The Federation has cancelled its meetings each year during this war since 1942.

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