

ENTOMOLOGY
**NATURE
 RAMBLINGS**
 by Frank Thone



DDT: After-Effects

➤ DDT, the new insecticide, available for civilian use now, is likely to prove discouraging not only to the insects themselves but to certain industries and businesses that produce and distribute insect-killing appliances used up to now.

It won't bother the insecticidal spray and dust manufacturers much. They'll simply modify their formulas to include DDT, but continue to include some of the old standby materials like pyrethrum, which is quicker-acting than DDT, even if not so certain a killer. Neither will window-screens pass out of use: better tactics, entomologists suggest, will be to put up screens as usual, then spray them with DDT, which will make death-traps of them for weeks or months.

There won't be so much business for the old reliable fly-swatter. For one thing, there won't be so many flies to swat. Besides, what will be the use of following a fly about the house to swat it, when you know that it only has to alight once on the DDT-sprayed wall or ceiling to pick up sure doom on its feet?

Sticky fly paper, however, faces a dubious future. The gluey sheets on window-sills and table, and spirals dangling from the ceiling, have never been nice to look at, anyway—not to mention the chances of the cat sitting on one of the sticky sheets, or a tall girl getting one of the spirals stuck in her hair. Even less likely to survive are the various types of fly poison, to which flies had to be lured with Borgia banquets of sugar-water or the like. Henceforth flies won't need to seek death in a saucer—it will be waiting for them in any spot where they stop to rest their wings.

Another industry founded on fly-kill-

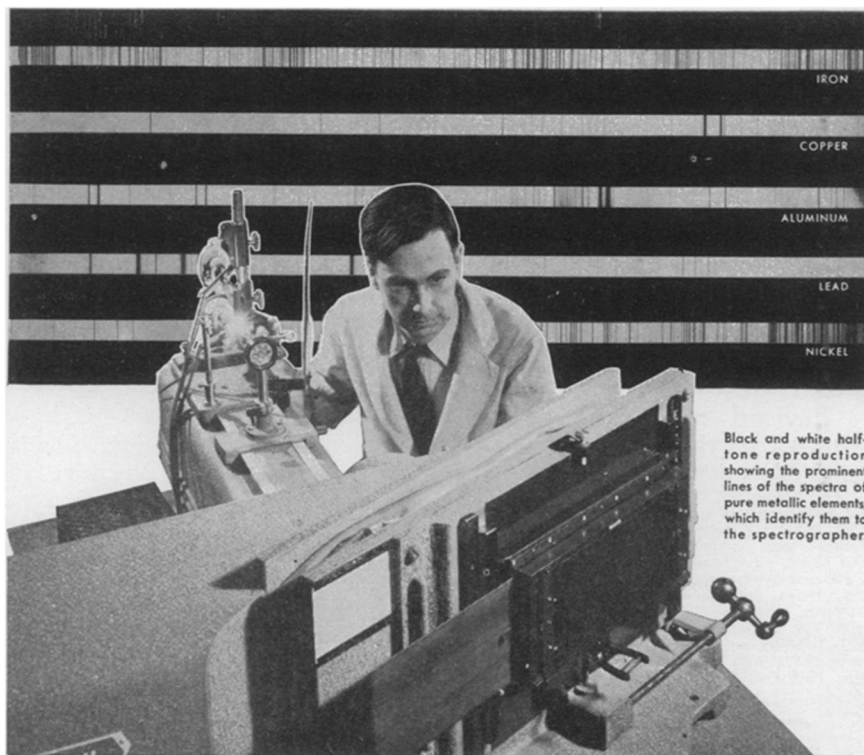
ing, newer than these, that may be adversely affected by the general distribution of DDT is the manufacture of electrically-charged flytraps. Up to now, they have been just about the deadliest contrivances a fly could approach, for the slightest contact of feet or wings with their highly-charged grids is signalled by a miniature lightning-flash marking the end of one fly. They still have the considerable advantage of greater neatness, for the dead insects drop into a tray underneath, and are thus automatically collected as well as killed. Nevertheless,

because DDT spraying will be so cheap, and can make such large areas deadly to flies at little expense, its competition is certain to be acutely felt here as well as in the older fly-killing fields.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1945

Egg shells are porous enough to allow fresh air to enter and used air to exit.

Thymol is one of the ingredients in a formula for a mold-preventive for book-bindings; included also are mercuric chloride, ether and benzene.



Black and white half-tone reproduction showing the prominent lines of the spectra of pure metallic elements, which identify them to the spectrographer.

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