



DEMOUNTABLE—Complete roof panels can be placed or removed from a prefabricated demountable house such as the one of the National Housing Agency shown here.

use, including faucets for the water system, inside partitions, outside walls, roofing, and transparent materials to replace ordinary window panes. Some have practically every property required in building and are light in weight as well.

A glass fiber-reinforced plastic deserves particular mention because, in addition to great strength, it can be formed into large pieces of various shapes by powered presses. The manufacturers suggest its use in one-piece rowboats, or as the whole top of a railroad car. The glass fiber reinforcing gives its strength just as steel rods reinforce concrete.

While many of the prefabricated homes shown in catalogs are box-like structures, the greater demand will probably be for those of more conventional appearance, perhaps of the favorite Cape Cod type. A house is not a home to many Americans if it varies too far from the familiar structure. The box-type prefabricated home is economical to build. It fits in well with surroundings in some parts of the country, but a house with the familiar pitched roof is still the favorite.

Something very unusual as a modern home is under development in one of the great war aircraft factories, but it has not yet reached the stage of perfection which warrants advertising. Economy will be its strongest sales point, it is claimed. The sales price may be only 50% to 60% that of prefabricated homes of conventional types.

This house, the Dymaxion, it is called,

is round in shape, with a domed roof. It is made of aluminum and has a window of a transparent plastic running in a strip all the way around it. Insulation will keep the inside warm in winter and cool in summer. Ventilation is provided by means of the domed top. It is a two-bedroom affair, with two baths, and will have the so-called unit equipment in its kitchen and bathroom.

Built-in furnishings seem to feature most of the new prefabricated homes. They include heating units, kitchen units, bathroom and laundry units, closets, bookcases, and even beds that store away in the walls during the day.

Typical is a kitchen unit mounted on a base less than eight feet long and narrow enough to be rolled through a door. When set in place, it is fastened to the wall. A few turns of a stillson wrench connects it to the utility outlets, and it is ready for use. It contains a stove, refrigerator, sink, work table and, overhead, cabinets for kitchen utensils. It is the modern prefabricated kitchen for the modern prefabricated home.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1946

PHYSICS

Atomic Scientist Warns Against Misinterpretation

➤ **WARNING AGAINST** misinterpretation of the experimental atomic bombing of Navy ships at Bikini atoll this spring and summer, Dr. Norris E. Bradbury, director of the Los Alamos Laboratory of the Manhattan Engineer District, said, "The test is not designed to determine conclusively the extent or character of our future naval construction, or to detract from the already fearful potentiality of the bomb as it might be used in another war."

Fearing that too much emphasis has been placed on the number of ships to

be used in the operation, Dr. Bradbury explained that many of the ships used will not receive serious damage.

"Many are to carry important instruments which will record data necessary to interpret properly the results of the test," he pointed out.

"The aim of the test," he declared, "should not be to see how many ships can be destroyed and sunk, but to obtain objective and factual information from ships at varying distances with all degrees of damage."

Dr. Bradbury said two difficulties in the test will be the danger of fires that might normally be put out by personnel aboard a ship, and the fact that the ships will be closer together than in a tactical formation.

The atomic scientist warned against misinterpretation of the results of the bombing damage, pointing out that the important effects of radioactivity and radiation can only be determined by technical measurements.

"Only by the most careful, unbiased and technical interpretation in military and naval circles, in the offices of overall military strategy and in the public press can the test be given its proper weight and meaning," declared Dr. Bradbury.

"Nor," he added, "should the people of this country ever forget the appearance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki after only one atomic bomb."

Science News Letter, March 23, 1946

Approximately 50 American *agricultural crops* depend upon honeybees for pollination.

Spectrographs, which determine elements in kind and amount by measuring ultraviolet ray lengths, have been found particularly useful in plant and poison analysis by agricultural chemists; samples are burned to emit the rays.

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