

## ENGINEERING

# Streamlined Luxury Liners

► OCEAN LINERS are going super-modern. Luxury liners will be long, narrow and sleek, truly streamlined. They will have little of the familiar upper structures of smoke stacks, lookout towers, masts, bridges and radio antenna. They will be larger and faster than any ever built in this country.

These vessels, already designed with working drawings and specifications prepared for shipbuilders, will be as unique in appearance as some of the aircraft under flight tests and automobiles promised for 1950. Though stripped of familiar markings, they have beauty and dignity.

Two such vessels are designed by the U. S. Maritime Commission for duty on the Pacific; others are intended for South American and Mediterranean routes. Bids for the construction of these two have already been called for. They will be known as Great Circle Liners, and will be speedy enough to travel from the West Coast to Tokyo in eight days.

These liners will be 920 feet long, with a deadweight tonnage of 12,500, and will be able to cut through the open sea at 30 knots. Each will accommodate 1,238 passengers, and will be manned by a crew of about 500 persons.

The weather deck surface is one of the striking features of these ships. It is not a single surface as in aircraft carriers, but has three elevations, each smaller than the one below. This permits both open and covered promenades. The upper, centrally-located sun deck extends

for more than half the length of the boat and has a fully equipped theater, as well as a circular play spot with band stand, dance floor, lounge and bar. The view of the ocean from it is unobstructed in every direction.

Aluminum in large quantities is specified in the construction of these vessels. Almost all the superstructure, starting from a point one-third aft of the bow, will be built of this light metal. This gives stability, permits a beam of only 86 feet, and enables the vessel to make greater speed with less horsepower than ever obtained before in ocean liners. Both vessels will be powered by burning oil.

*Science News Letter, September 7, 1946*

## PHARMACOCHEMISTRY

## Better Skin Ointments With Penicillin May Come

► BETTER penicillin ointment for skin conditions such as impetigo and for burns may be coming as a result of studies reported at the meeting in Pittsburgh of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Use of some of the newer wetting agents, familiar in soapless shampoos, made the most satisfactory ointments of many tested, M. L. Neuroth, Glenn L. Jenkins and C. O. Lee of Purdue University School of Pharmacy found.

The tests, made with a new method devised in the Purdue laboratories, were for determining how long the penicillin remained active in the various bases.

Addition of small amounts of sodium

citrate and urea helps to keep the penicillin in the ointment active against germs, the scientists also found.

Sinus sufferers and nose specialists will welcome the finding that adding ephedrine sulfate to penicillin solutions causes only slight loss of penicillin stability. These studies, by Victor P. Seeberg, Doris Jane Brown and Fredrick J. Johnson of the Cutter Laboratories, Berkeley, Calif., were made following reports of treatment of sphenothmoiditis with penicillin applied locally, together with spraying of a substance such as ephedrine for constricting blood vessels.

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## ZOOLOGY

## Giraffe Born at National Zoological Park

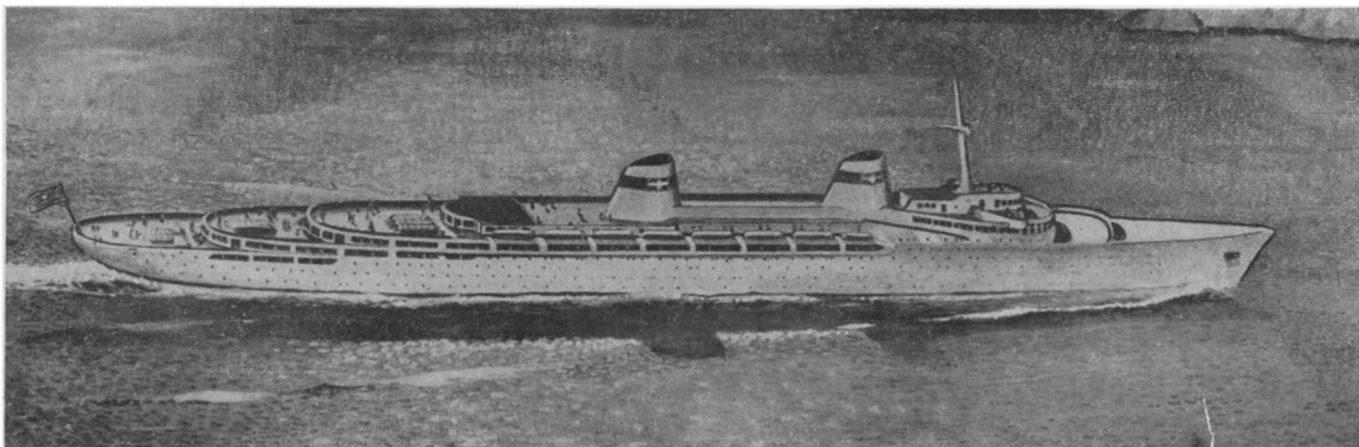
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► BIRTH of a new giraffe at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C., on Aug. 23 was announced by Dr. William H. Mann, director. The baby, which is a female, was about four feet tall and weighed a little less than 100 pounds at birth, has been named Twiga, which is the word for giraffe in the Swahili language. The mother's name is Spring Song, and the father's is Nageoma.

The picture on the front cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is of Twiga and her mother the day after she was born.

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*Vanillic* acid esters, which recent tests have shown to be potent against molds and heat-resistant bacteria, may become substitutes for sodium benzoate as preservatives for fresh fruit juices, cheese spreads and bread.



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