

Do You Know?

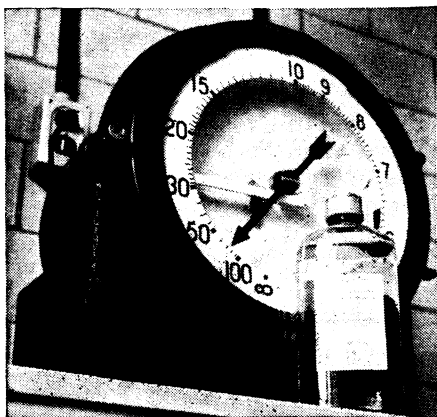
The rarest bird in Africa is the *Congo peacock*, unknown to science a decade or so ago.

An outstanding preservative for wood is a chemical known as *pentachlorophenol*; it is deadly to termites and fungi.

New *papers* that retain strength even when soaked with water are used to wrap moist fresh vegetables during shipment to market; they keep them in good condition.

The greatest differences between day and night temperatures in the United States usually come at the time of the *equinoxes* in March and September, when days and nights are about equal in length.

Channel *catfish* of Midwestern rivers feed largely at night, with the heaviest period coming at dusk; feeding during the twilight hours is largely in deep water, but later the catfish come near the river banks.



GUARDIAN FOR A WATER STILL

Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo, Mich., uses this Micromax Recorder to show the constant purity of the sterile, double-distilled, pyrogen-free water which is one of the Company's products.

This instrument warns against such difficulties as foaming, priming, and using water before entrained air has been swept out of the still. Its record shows quality at all times. For details, see Catalog EN-95, sent on request.



Jrl Ad N-95 (3a)

dark, use the thinned mucilage. Apply to a few branches at a time with a spray gun, an insect spray, window washing spray or a blow spray. When the material is tacky, hold a sheet of paper under the branches to catch any loose powder and sprinkle, preferably through a strainer. Shake the branch to knock off any material not bound and use for the next location. This procedure will permit you to spread a small vial of powder over a large surface.

Treat the electric tree lamps in the same fashion as the other decorations. Bear in mind that to get a good glow the surface should be well covered with the luminous materials. A single layer is as effective as multiple coats. Only the surface layer gives off light. Remember, also, that a coated ornament loses its original brilliance and color. So use discretion if you want to get the most spectacular effect.

Holes in broken ornaments may be patched with strips of Scotch tape and

the entire ornament may then be covered with the luminous material thus returning a worthless article to decorative value. Dry pine cones, grasses, straw flowers and paper cut-outs, fitted with wires for hanging and treated with the paint will add to the decorative scheme.

Apply maximum illumination by substituting light colors in those bulbs which illuminate the tree. Locate these where you have the greatest number of treated ornaments or branches. Then, when the lights go out, you will have something of which you will be justly proud.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947

SEND TODAY FOR YOUR EXPERIMENTAL KIT! BLACK LIGHT & GLOWING MATERIALS

Ultraviolet lamp, self-glowing chemicals, minerals—26 experiments. Packed in substantial and colorful wood-sided box.

\$4.95 each postpaid

Created and Guaranteed by
SCIENCE SERVICE

1719 N St., N. W. Washington 6, D. C.

MEDICINE

Checks Incurable Disease

➤ ONE of the nitrogen mustards, war gas chemical, has brought some improvement to four veterans suffering from an incurable chronic disease known as Boeck's sarcoid, Dr. George E. Snider of the Veterans Administration Hospital at Fort Howard, Md., reported to the Southern Medical Association meeting in Baltimore.

The swelling of the glands went down, the acute inflammation of the iris of the eyes subsided and in some cases vision improved, chest symptoms were arrested, the skin eruption receded, and some patients gained weight.

In one patient, treated almost a year ago, the disease has almost completely disappeared.

The nitrogen mustard which brought this improvement cannot yet be called a cure for the condition, Dr. Snider emphasized. Patients with Boeck's sarcoid often have periods when they seem to be getting better, so more time must elapse before doctors can be sure the improvement in these four cases was due to the new treatment.

The chemical was given by injecting a dose into the veins every day for four days, allowing a rest period of about a month, and then giving a second series of injections. Nausea and vomiting followed each injection and the number of

white blood cells was temporarily reduced.

Boeck's sarcoid, a rather rare condition, is considered an infectious disease, although no germ or virus cause has been found. Cough, shortness of breath and a little fever may occur in some cases and suggest that the patient has tuberculosis. Swollen lymph glands and salivary glands, inflammation of the iris of the eye, and a skin eruption that is painless and does not itch are other symptoms. In the early stages, the patient may not have fever but feels mildly sick with a distaste for food and vague digestive disturbances.

Almost any part of the body may be affected. Physicians have generally called Boeck's sarcoid a benign, meaning harmless, sickness. More recently they have realized that it may at times involve vital centers and lead to serious damage and even death.

Arsenic, gold, X-rays, radium, ultraviolet light and many other kinds of treatment have been tried without success.

Dr. Snider was led to try nitrogen mustard because this war gas chemical had brought improvement in cases of Hodgkins' disease, which has some similarity to Boeck's sarcoid.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947