

long, continuous-filament nylon, the short length fibers can be used to create soft, warm garments which resemble wool. This process is opening up a vast new field for synthetic fiber. Used alone or blended with wool, silk or rayon, it is giving greater variety in fabrics and more durable ones.

Both the sheerest of sheer ladies' stockings and woolly, nylon men's socks have been produced only experimentally. The sheerest stockings are 10 denier, compared with 15 or 20 for most nylons.

Nylon itself is still in its infancy. It was first introduced to the public less than ten years ago. Not in the form of stockings but as toothbrush bristles was it first placed on the market. Nylon

stockings did not appear until May 15, 1940.

Strength along with elasticity are nylon's two most important properties. Today, this fiber, a favorite with fastidious ladies, is proving its popularity in many fields. Polo shirts, jockey caps and football pants are made of it. Nurses find that uniforms of nylon save laundry bills. Nylon linings in fur coats outwear the fur. The fabric makes excellent laundry nets. Blouses, slips, panties and foundation garments are only a few of the newly-approved uses of this synthetic fiber, that in less than a decade has begun to play such a vital role in the fabric industry.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1948

California showed that streptomycin controlled pneumonic plague, the most deadly form of the disease, in 90% of mice. But its effect on human plague patients remained to be proved.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1948

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Atomic Energy Exhibit Biggest of Its Kind in U. S.

See Front Cover

► JOHN Q. PUBLIC is invited to view the biggest atomic energy exhibit ever provided the American people at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Sponsored by the Brookhaven National Laboratory to promote individual understanding of nuclear science developments, the exhibit utilizes models, demonstrations, talks, movies, large panel diagrams presenting fundamental atomic facts, photomurals and other devices to show the great values of nuclear energy in scientific research.

A model power plant, shown on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, demonstrates how an atomic pile may some day be used to generate electric power. Nuclear fission releases great

MEDICINE

Plague Patients Saved

Streptomycin was given to five dying patients after other treatment proved futile. First sign of improvement was seen within 36 hours.

► FIVE patients dying of plague, one of the most fatal of all epidemic diseases, are alive and well today, thanks to streptomycin. They are living proof of the hopes held by medical scientists that the great disease conqueror from an earth mold would prove effective against this scourge of the centuries.

The patients were victims in a plague outbreak in the Madras Presidency, India. Their rapid recoveries under streptomycin treatment are reported by the Anantapur medical officer, P. V. Karamchandi, and the medical officer of the Hindupur Plague Hospital, K. Sundar Rao, in the medical journal, *Lancet*, (Jan. 3.)

The five young patients had temperatures as high as 106.6 degrees Fahrenheit, swollen glands, were semi-conscious and had a dangerously low rate of breathing. Plague germs were discovered upon puncture of the enlarged glands.

Sulfa drugs, found partly effective in checking plague in China, were given to the first three of the patients but did not help. So streptomycin was tried. Within 36 hours after the start of this treatment the patients became conscious and recovery followed rapidly.

"Streptomycin appears to be a potent drug for the treatment of human plague," the Indian medical officers report.

No bad effects were observed from the drug.

The lowly laboratory mouse first pointed the way to check-mating the Black Death. In the early part of 1947, Dr. Karl Meyer of the University of



MAKES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END—By touching the dome of this model Van de Graaff electrostatic generator, used in nuclear processes, the young man on the right got a shock of static electricity which made his hair rise vertically. This is one of several scientific instruments being shown at the atomic energy exhibit.