

Do You Know?

The protein and mineral contents of *fishery foods* are equal to those of meat.

Ascorbic acid, which is vitamin C, may be added to fruits being canned in the home to prevent them from turning brown or developing an off flavor.

Tetanus, or lockjaw, is not caused by a rusty nail as many believe but by a germ that is often present in soils contaminated by the body wastes of cattle, horses and other animals.

The service life of *fence posts* of common non-durable woods can be doubled if they are treated before set in the soil with such preservatives as copper naphthenate, creosote, zinc chloride or pentachlorophenol.

The *highland flower mouse* is a rat-like rodent of Nepal, the Himalaya nation north of India; it lives in grass nests in hollows in decayed trees.

To the Person who is

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been burned, are mixed with sand to form a concrete that weighs 35 to 40 pounds less per cubic foot than regular concrete.

Each lightweight aggregate has certain distinct characteristics. If insulation is the primary consideration, then expanded vermiculite is the choice. If insulation is important and some structural strength is required, then perlite is often preferred.

When great strength is essential as well as light weight, pumice, foamed slag, expanded clay and shale, or one of the other strong but air-filled aggregates will be called into service. Here the availability of the material may be the determining factor. Pumice, for instance, is widely used on the Pacific Coast, where it is found in certain volcanic regions. Foamed slag is popular in the East and Middle West, where large numbers of blast furnaces are located.

These and many other promising lightweight aggregates are being thoroughly tested as to insulation against heat and sound, strength, ability to withstand repeated freezing and thawing, and other important qualities. This is done by the National Bureau of Standards and the Bureau of Reclamation under the sponsorship of the Housing and Home Finance Agency. From such studies will result better office buildings, apartment houses and homes in the future.

A number of these lightweight extenders have been collected for you by Science Service. For the nominal fee of 50 cents you can receive specimens of expanded shale or clay, pumice, perlite ore and expanded perlite, vermiculite ore and expanded vermiculite. These are accompanied by a number of interesting experiments you can perform with the aggregates. Write Science Service, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for the kit of lightweight aggregates.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

ASTRONOMY

Comet Ashbrook Brighter

► COMET ASHBROOK, spotted a few weeks ago in the constellation of Aquarius, the water carrier, is increasing in brightness. But it will probably never become bright enough for you to see without the aid of at least a small telescope.

The comet will make its closest approach to the sun next April 25, and will be nearest the earth the end of this month, calculates Dr. Allan D. Maxwell of Howard University, Washington. On Sept. 30 the head of the comet will come within 218,000,000 miles of the earth, he estimates; this is also the distance it will be from the sun on its nearest approach.

Now visible in the southeast, the comet was spotted on Aug. 26 by Dr. Joseph Ashbrook of Yale University Observatory while at the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Ariz. It was of the 12th magnitude when found.

The comet will probably never become brighter than 10th or 11th magnitude, Dr. Maxwell says. It will reach its maximum brightness in March and April of next year, but at that time the sun will interfere with our seeing it.

Now 10 to 12 degrees north of the bright star Fomalhaut, the comet is moving so slowly that it will not leave the constellation of Aquarius until early next year. Just missing the constellation of Pegasus, the winged horse, it will swing into the constellation of Pisces the fishes, and on into Aries, the ram.

By the end of June it will be in the vicinity of the star Capella, of 0.2 magnitude and hence one of the brightest in the sky. During September of next year it will be in the constellation of Gemini, the twins. This is about as far north as it will get.

The best time to look for the comet is in the early morning hours, about one or two o'clock. On Wednesday, Sept. 22, it

will be found at right ascension 22 hours, 48.8 minutes; declination negative 13 degrees, 39 minutes, Dr. Maxwell reports. On Thursday, Sept. 30, look for it at right ascension 22 hours, 42.2 minutes; declination minus 13 degrees, four minutes.

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System resistance	17 ohms	25 ohms	550 ohms

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