

Do You Know?

With *sweet peppers*, the redder the crop the better for vitamin values.

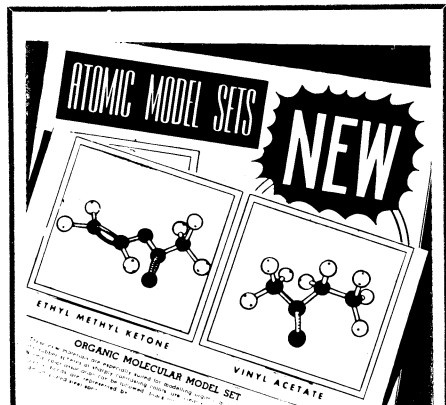
The average annual consumption of *eggs* in the United States is 380 per person.

Paint in the can should be stirred, not shaken; shaking is apt to result in minute air bubbles which may cause pin prick blisters on the finished job.

Deciduous trees with small leaves thrive best in *high-wind areas*; the small leaves spin in the wind and stay on the tree, while large leaves of other trees are pulled off.

A disease that appears to be native to the soybean belt of the United States called *brown stem rust*, is caused by a fungus that has the peculiarity of growing rapidly only in rather cool weather.

Six varieties of *trees*, used to repair 1944 hurricane damage, have been found to do best in the salt spray and strong winds on Cape Cod, Mass.; they are honey locust, Wisconsin golden willow, Austrian pine, Japanese black pine, Aspiratte spruce and the native pitch pine.



Atoms are represented by brightly colored rubber spheres, and bonds by plastic tubing. With these sets chemists, metallurgists, mineralogists and crystallographers can easily assemble large models showing the basic structure of molecules and crystals. Here is an ideal visual aid for classroom and laboratory, from elementary chemistry to advanced research.

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Science has no political affiliation. Concern for our national security is non-partisan. Sober recognition of scientific research as the basis of our future national security should certainly be non-partisan. All Americans have a solemn obligation to avoid those methods and procedures which are impeding scientific research—whether adopted mistakenly with good intent, or advocated in the name of security by men with other axes to grind.

My emphasis tonight has been on the physical and biological sciences. These are obviously in the forefront in terms of our industry and technology. But the social sciences and related fields are at least as important in the present stage of human affairs.

The physical sciences offer us tangible goods; the biological sciences, tangible

cures. The social sciences offer us better ways of organizing our lives. I have high hopes, as our knowledge in these fields increases, that the social sciences will enable us to escape from those habits and thoughts which have resulted in so much strife and tragedy.

Now and in the years ahead, we need more than anything else the honest and uncompromising common-sense of science. Science means a method of thought. That method is characterized by open-mindedness, honesty, perseverance, and, above all, by an unflinching passion for knowledge and truth. When more of the peoples of the world have learned the ways of thought of the scientist, we shall have better reason to expect lasting peace and a fuller life for all.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1948

TECHNOLOGY

Dishtowels from Asbestos

► FLUFFY FIBERS of the mineral asbestos are being woven with cotton to produce a truly absorbent dishtowel.

The fabric is 20% asbestos and 80% cotton. Tiny bundles of asbestos fibers in the cloth blot up the water.

The fabric is dyed after being woven, but only the cotton fibers absorb the color. Thus the solid-colored towels, sold under the trade name of Carosel, are decorated with tiny flecks of white—the undyed asbestos.

Fire-resistant cloth is also made of asbestos and cotton fibers. This material contains 80% asbestos, 20% cotton—just the reverse proportions of the dishtowel fabric.

Useful in fighting fires, this material serves in the home as ironing board covers and “slippers” for hot irons. The fabric, which weighs only 22 ounces per square yard, is used in electrical insulation, laundry mangle and press covers, fireproof draperies and industrial rubber goods.

Cotton is mixed with the fireproof asbestos to give the fabric a firmer construction. Slippery asbestos fibers do not hold together well, so cotton is employed to anchor them in place. The cotton is combustible, but because of the large percentage of asbestos fibers the fabric will not support a flame for more than an instant or so.

The strength of cotton yarn is almost doubled by a new chemical and mechanical treatment. Any type of conventional cotton ply yarn can be used. The chemical treatment works on the natural waxes of the cotton fibers to reduce their tendency to slip over each other; a stretching operation further increases the strength of the cotton. The yarn's tensile strength is improved as much as 70% to 90%.

This extra strength makes the yarn especially valuable for use in rubber-fabric conveyor belts, high-pressure hose and other industrial rubber products where high

strength and low stretch are important.

Some yarns are made to stretch, then snap back into shape. These elastic yarns are becoming increasingly popular for home use. Buttons can withstand sudden tugs when sewed with elastic yarn. Ruffling for curtains can be shirred and little girls' dresses smocked on the sewing machine when this thread is used.

The base of the elastic yarn is a rubber core, around which threads are wound. At least two threads are always applied, wound in opposite directions, to balance the yarn and keep it from twisting.

Samples of these specialized yarns and textiles have been collected for you through the cooperation of the United States Rubber Company and Science Service. Also included among the nine specimens are an elastic yarn only 1/125 of an inch in diameter and a fabric of permanent starchiness.

These specimens, with a leaflet telling how they were made and experiments you can perform with them, may be secured by sending 50 cents to Science Service, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Just ask for unit No. 95, the Specialized Textiles Unit of THINGS of science.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1948

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