

Do You Know?

Albacore is the choicest species of tuna fish; its meat is white.

Although known to be a native of the American continent, the exact origin of the common *white potato* is unknown.

Alaska's most troublesome predatory animals are bands of wolves and coyotes; they kill reindeer, mountain sheep, moose, caribou and fur animals.

In a recent five-year period, receipts by the U. S. government from *tobacco* and related products averaged over \$950,000,000 each year.

Titanium is the seventh most common metal and the ninth most common element in the earth's crust; few have seen the pure metal because it is hard to separate from its ores.

A special *menu* is served on airplanes because of certain changes that take place in the body at high altitudes; meals are light and spaced far apart because digestion is slowed down and food remains longer in the stomach than at sea level.

Derris, the roots of which yield the valuable insecticide known as rotenone, is a vine introduced into the Western Hemisphere from the Far East; it grows best in fertile soils at low altitudes in warm, moist tropical climates.

Telephone Shoulder Cradle

Leaves both hands free while using phone.

Can be installed in two minutes.



Tele-Rest shoulder cradle gives phone users complete freedom of both hands. Fits any portable phone. Compact, unbreakable, adjustable.

A convenient phone accessory for executives, order clerks, secretaries, professional people and housewives. When the telephone is placed to the ear, the cradle rests comfortably on the shoulder, permitting the user to take dictation, write notes, check files or search for reference material. Tele-Rest is made of cast aluminum with rubber shoulder grip. Adaptable for either ear.

\$1.98

(Add 8 cen's postage)

JOHN N. CULVER

4007 Lawrence Street Co'mar Manor
Brentwood, Maryland

ENGINEERING

Gasoline Jell Splits Rock

► A NEW PROCESS to crack rock thousands of feet under ground to permit the flow of oil to the well-holes from which it is pumped to the surface was revealed in Dallas by Stanolind Oil and Gas Company at a meeting of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. The process utilizes jellied gasoline, one of the war's most horrible incendiary weapons.

The jellied gasoline looks like thick mush. It is pumped into the well under very high pressure. It spreads through the underground rock formation and causes it to split and open up cracks through which the oil can flow. Sand suspended in the mush keeps the cracks from closing again. After the rocks are split, a liquid chemical may be pumped into the well. It breaks the mush into a liquid again and the gasoline flows out of the well with the oil.

The new method is expected to help

petroleum engineers solve one of their major problems. This is opening up rock formation so that oil can flow to the well-holes. The method should prove of particular value in the recovery of oil from formations too "tight" for an economical oil flow. By means of it many abandoned wells may be put into operation again.

The new process, to be known as the Hydrafrac method, was explained to the engineers by J. B. Clark of Stanolind's Tulsa research laboratories. It was developed particularly for use in sandstone formations, but it will also work in limestone. It may replace a successful process now used in limestone in which an acid is used to eat holes in the rock. This acid process has not been found satisfactory for use in sandstone formations, and it is in sandstone formations that more than half the oil wells of America are producing.

Science News Letter, October 23, 1948

MEDICINE

Early Baby May Go Blind

► SMALL premature babies, especially those weighing less than three pounds at birth, are being saved by medical science only to face the danger of permanent blindness, it appears from a study by a husband and wife team of eye specialists, Drs. William C. and Ella U. Owens of the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Medical School.

About one in every eight of the infants weighing less than three pounds at birth goes blind, the doctors reported at the meeting in Chicago of the Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. They studied 214 premature infants born through a two-year period.

The blindness that threatens these babies is due to a condition called retrolental fibroplasia. It was first recognized only six years ago by the late Dr. T. L. Terry of Boston.

The condition does not exist at birth and therefore is not congenital. About the second or third month, never later than the sixth month, a peculiar membrane develops behind the lens of the baby's eye. Usually both eyes are affected. The membrane in most cases goes on to develop into a fibrous structure which fills the eyeball. The eyeball enlarges to a state resembling glaucoma. The blindness is permanent and usually complete and there is no treatment for it.

As to the cause, Dr. Owens observed that in recent years there has been increased interest in the preservation of the lives of premature infants.

"In an effort to compensate for their physiologic immaturity," he continued,

"these infants are often given diets high in protein, large amounts of vitamins, repeated transfusions of blood and plasma, parenteral amino acids and occasionally hormone therapy. In some premature nurseries penicillin is given prophylactically on admission.

"Whether any of these methods of therapy produce a metabolic imbalance which is related to the disease is as yet unknown."

Dr. Owens said that studies of the nursery records of the children who developed the condition are being made now to determine whether there is any common factor that might be identified as a possible cause.

Science News Letter, October 23, 1948

Funeral vases closely modeled after potato tubers have been found in prehistoric Peruvian graves.

THE BINARY SLIDE RULE



EXACT SIZE

equals a 20 Inch Straight Slide Rule in precision. Has C, CI, A, K, Log, LL1, LL2, LL3, LL4, Binary, Add and Subtract Scales. Gives Trig. Functions from 0 to 90 degrees 1 Minute. The Engine-divided Scales are on white coated aluminum. Permanently accurate. Dia. 8 1/4". Large figures and graduations eliminate eyestrain. Approved at leading Universities. Price, with Case and Instructions, \$7.25. Circulars free. Your money back if you are not entirely satisfied.

Gilson Slide Rule Co., Box 993, Stuart, Fla.

Slide Rule Makers since 1915.