

AERONAUTICS

Radar Device for Planes

➤ ONLY moving aircraft will show on the screens of a new radar device to help planes make all-weather approaches and landings, General Electric revealed in Syracuse, N. Y., at its new Electronics Park where 27 units of the equipment are to be constructed for the U. S. Civil Aeronautics Administration for installations at commercial airports.

This new device is said to be the first of the type to employ "Moving Target Indication" as a standard production feature. This is a unique method of eliminating fixed objects, such as tall towers and neighboring hills, from the radar scope image. Special means, by use of a superimposed chart on the image, enables the tower control operator to determine the proximity of any airplane to a dangerous obstruction.

The equipment is a scanning radar for use with ground-control-approach (GCA) radar-radio apparatus. This war device was successfully used to bring planes of the armed services safely into fog-bound airfields. CAA is now using at least three of these GCA devices to supplement its in-

strument landing system (ILS). The types used by the CAA are much simpler than those employed during the war.

The type that General Electric is under contract to construct may be installed anywhere up to two miles from the airport control tower and, by means of a unique remote system, brings its scope pictures into the tower for the benefit of the traffic controller. The picture he sees will show the exact position and flight path of every plane within a 30-mile radius.

During periods of bad weather and poor visibility this complete picture of all planes flying within the area will make it possible for the controller more safely to conduct each plane to the blind landing radio beam by means of radio conversation. Installations of the new radar sets will begin early in 1950, it is expected, with 22 of them assigned to CAA airport control towers in this country, one in Hawaii, and four in Alaska. The 27 will be constructed under a \$2,840,427 contract.

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the study of the Aleuts makes me wonder why similar studies are not made of the tribes and groups of people such as the Hunzas, the native of the Torres Strait Islands, the Indians of Bolivia, the primitive Eskimos and Indians of Alaska, the Bene of the Nigerian Delta, and many others who have been reported to be free or practically free from cancer, to see if they really are free of that disease and to try to learn why they are immune if they are immune. Surely a nation with a forty to fifty billion dollars a year national budget and some of our heavily endowed universities could spare enough money to keep a dozen or more expeditions in the field for several years to do a thorough job of it.—R. S. Moller, Hempstead, N. Y.

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Letters To The Editor

Keeping Warm

We have a system similar to the reflective radiant one described in SNL, Dec. 11, which is already in successful operation in our home in the Catskill Mountains.

The wall back of the kitchen stove is covered with this aluminum foil, as is also the opposite end wall, reflecting the heat waves to all parts of the 10 by 15 room 10 feet high.

Wood is used as fuel and no other heat source is necessary. During the cold December weather, when the temperature dropped below zero, it was necessary to keep the windows partly open while my wife was baking to prevent the indoor temperature from soaring into the nineties.—George H. Gabus, Livingston Manor, N. Y.

Native Immunity

The report in SNL, Nov. 27, regarding

Question Box

AERONAUTICS

What is the new radar device for planes? p. 36.

CHEMISTRY

How can clouds of dust purify air of poisonous fumes? p. 41.

ENGINEERING

What new process is yielding fuel gas? p. 42.

GENETICS

What criticism is made of Russia's new theory of genetics? p. 39.

Photographs: Cover, p. 35, National Bureau of Standards; p. 37, General Electric; p. 38, Navy; p. 39, University of California African Expedition; p. 42, p. 43, Bureau of Mines, U. S. Dept. of Interior.

MEDICINE

What is the new plan of the WHO for checking 'flu epidemics? p. 37.

PHYSICS

How is the atomic clock expected to help in scientific research? p. 35.

POPULATION

Why does an expert conclude that the world can't support its present population? p. 41.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

What offers hope of eradicating foot-and-mouth disease? p. 40.