

the Eighth Annual Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships. He will be in Washington, D. C., March 3 through 7, attending the Science Talent Institute, at which time \$11,000 in college scholarships will be awarded.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1949

ENGINEERING

Coating Makes Aviation Oil Tank Fire Safe

► SYNTHETIC RUBBER, in combination with other materials, is used for a coating on a new aviation oil tank which is claimed to be capable of withstanding fire and temperatures of 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, the B. F. Goodrich Company of Akron, O., revealed.

The tank, developed for the U. S. Navy, is of particular value in combat aircraft but has other possible applications outside of aviation. These include fuel tanks for automobiles, buses and trucks, and the coating may be applied to gasoline tanks and other containers of volatile fuels.

The new tank is rigid and considerably lighter than other fuel tanks. It is bullet-sealing, a valuable asset in combat. During tests with a blowtorch, the tank was undamaged after prolonged exposure to temperatures greater than 2,000 degrees, Goodrich engineers declare. An ordinary aluminum fuel cell would disintegrate in less than a minute under the same treatment.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1949

ENGINEERING

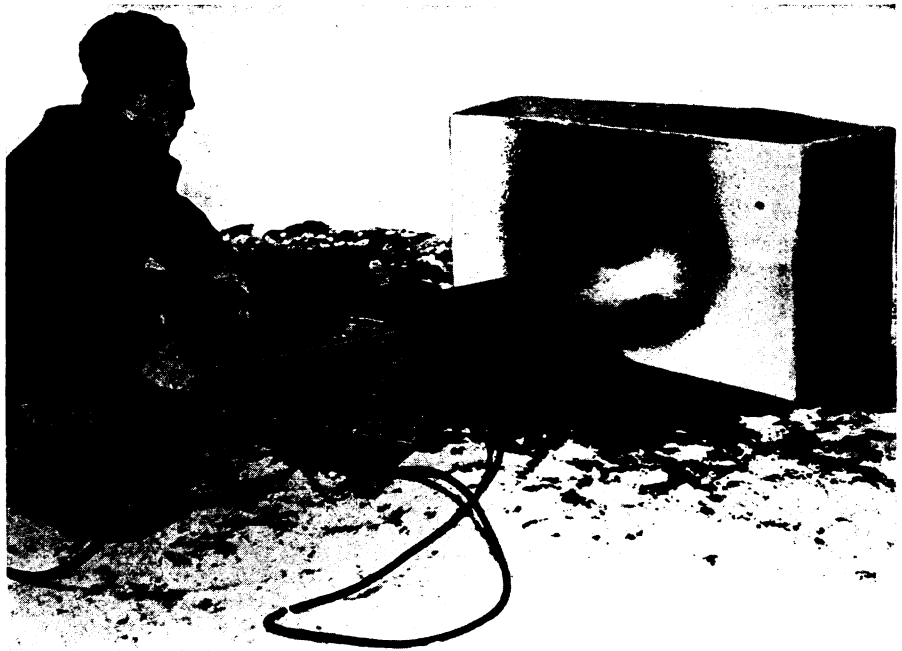
Meter Records Audience Response to Program

► THE average opinion of a group of people listening to a speech or recital, or witnessing a performance can be determined by a device developed by General Electric which has been dubbed a "recording opinion meter." With it, up to 100 persons can indicate what they think of the program at one-minute intervals throughout the performance.

Each of the 100 persons holds a coffee-cup sized device which has a pointer that can be turned to Very Dull, Dull, Normal, Good or Very Good. Electric signals pass to the recording meter. A moving strip of paper continuously records the composite opinion. The strip is marked in units of one minute, so that its records can be matched with the various stages of the program.

The instrument is to be used by a New York advertising agency to study audience reactions to radio and television programs. Many other applications will probably follow, such as for use in previews of new Hollywood films. Since each individual's opinion is expressed secretly, the device records a true, uninfluenced group opinion.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1949



FIRE-RESISTING FUEL TANK—A powerful blowtorch has no effect on this coated aviation oil tank whereas an ordinary aluminum fuel tank disintegrated in less than 60 seconds under the same conditions.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Russians Quit WHO

There have been several signs pointing to their possible withdrawal, one being that there have been no Russians on WHO's staff.

► ALTHOUGH Soviet Russia's withdrawal from the World Health Organization seems to have come as a surprise to officials of the organization, there have apparently been a few signs pointing toward it.

One was the failure of Soviet Russia to attend the last meeting in Geneva of WHO's executive board of which she had been a member. The excuse given at that time was that the agenda for the meeting had not been received in time.

Second possible sign that Russia was considering withdrawal or at least was dissatisfied with the organization was the fact that there have been no Russians on WHO's staff. This was not for lack of being asked. The Soviet Union has been repeatedly asked for experts to serve on WHO's staff and technical committees but has not sent anyone.

Recalling that efforts to establish international control of atomic energy broke down over the inspection provision, it has been suggested in Washington that something of this sort might have caused the Soviet withdrawal from WHO. But this is not likely, since WHO does not go into

a country unless that nation's government requests WHO assistance on some health problem. For example, WHO is now recruiting teams to demonstrate the use of DDT and other measures for control of malaria mosquitoes in the Orient. But this is being done at the request of various governments of Oriental countries for help in bringing malaria under control.

For the same reason, that WHO does not send experts or staff into a country unless invited, it is considered unlikely that the Soviet withdrawal means Russia is afraid WHO officials might discover any germ warfare plans Russia might be making.

Although WHO has till now been the outstanding example of Soviet cooperation in the international field, Russia has not lived up to the part of the WHO agreement which calls for regular reporting of communicable, or epidemic, diseases.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1949

Some *wild birds* like a shower bath; marsh hawks, for instance, are often seen sitting out in a heavy rain with wings spread to enjoy the wetting.