



DESTROYING PEST—Poison ivy should be sprayed three or four times during the summer.

Urushiol is so potent that as little as 1/60,000 of a grain of it (about .00000004 of an ounce), when dissolved in olive oil and rubbed on the skin, will cause mild poisoning.

Plants which carry this evil substance are not known in Europe. There are Asiatic sumacs, however, whose sap is highly poisonous. This sap has been used as a shellac.

A story is told of a zealous customs in-

pector who opened a heavy can brought in by a Chinese importer. The importer said the stuff was shellac, but the inspector said to himself, "A-ha, opium!" He took the sticky black substance to the laboratory, spread it over himself liberally while analyzing it, and for the next month was laid up with one of the worst cases of sumac poisoning on record.

Science News Letter, September 2, 1950

MEDICINE

Resentment Causes Hives

➤ RESENTMENT is a cause of hives, it appears from studies of 30 patients reported by Drs. David T. Graham and Stewart Wolf of the New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical College (JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Aug. 19).

The patients got attacks of hives when they felt they were being unjustly treated and could not fight back nor avoid the unfair situation.

"Taking a beating" (unjustly) is the way they described it, and their blood vessels behaved as they would if the patients had actually been receiving blows.

The doctors' studies showed that the hives resulted from extreme dilation of the small blood vessels in the skin which occurred as part of the patient's reactions to the situation.

Although these patients sometimes felt hatred of others or anxiety about various situations, it was always resentment that

brought on the attack of hives. In some cases of flushing of the skin in embarrassing social situations, questioning revealed that there was some resentment mixed in with the embarrassment.

The resentment was usually felt toward a wife, husband, parent or other close relative. The patient felt "There was nothing I could do," although the doctors often could see how the patient could have fought back or avoided the unjust treatment.

Science News Letter, September 2, 1950

PHYSICS

Arrangement Irregularities Govern Material Strength

➤ THE strength of materials may depend upon the irregularities in atomic arrangement in solids, it is believed in New Bruns-

wick, N. J., by scientists of Rutgers University.

In research work seeking new basic information dealing with the irregularities of atomic arrangement, they are using X-rays to produce more accurate and complete pictures of the irregularities than ever produced before, it is claimed.

The work is sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. The scientists on the project are Dr. Alfred J. Reis and Sigmund Weissman. Their work is based on long-known knowledge that the physical properties of metals, ceramics and other industrial materials must be intimately connected with the arrangement of atoms.

Science News Letter, August 19, 1950

On This Week's Cover

➤ TAILORS spend not only winter days but sweltering summer days cutting and fitting sleek, tailored overcoats—thick, asbestos-lined "overcoats" for steam turbines. For the turbines need overcoats no matter how hot the weather, to prevent loss of heat from the temperature steam that makes most of the nation's electrical power.

No drape shape will do for a turbine. Even the curve of the cross-over pipe of the turbine must be smoothly jacketed as shown on this week's cover of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER. The "interlining" of the turbine's overcoat is a thick blanket of asbestos and glass fiber. Like a satin bedcover, the sections of "blanket" under the canvas are quilted and tufted to keep the stuffing from bunching or shifting. But turbine tailors sew with steel wire and tuft with steel washers.

In making some of the world's largest clothing, the Steam Division annually uses some 60 miles of wire "thread"; 7,500 square yards of asbestos cloth; and more than 64,000 pounds of glass fiber.

Science News Letter, September 2, 1950

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