



SOLAR FLARE—Shown surrounded by prominences in this photograph of the sun's limb made at the High Altitude Observatory of Harvard University and the University of Colorado at Climax, Colo.

plosions or fiery geysers, they ponder. In what manner do they affect the surrounding space? And most important of all, do they affect us here on earth and how? Many

more flare-stars must be found—and luck will have much to do with their discovery—before these questions can be solved.

Science News Letter, December 2, 1950

GENERAL SCIENCE

TV Channels for Education

Top educational groups urge that certain wavelengths be set aside for educational programs. Unlimited possibilities foreseen.

► **SETTING** aside certain of the limited number of available television channels for educational-type programs was urged by a joint committee of seven top educational groups.

These organizations banded together as the Joint Committee on Educational Television to present their views on education in television at hearings by the FCC.

With only a limited number of channels available for TV broadcasts, it is "imperative for the national welfare that the FCC take decisive steps now to insure that there will be at least one television channel for educational use in each large city and each important educational center," Brig. Gen. Telford Taylor, the committee's counsel, stated.

"There is only room for about 300 television broadcasting stations on the channels now available for this purpose. Of these, only 107 are now in operation and there are numerous competing applicants for the remaining 'slots,'" he continued.

Gen. Taylor stated that television had virtually unlimited possibilities in medicine, in agriculture and in all phases of adult education and community extension work.

Educational groups sponsoring the Joint Committee on Educational Television include: The American Council on Education, the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, the National Association of

Educational Broadcasters, the Association for Education by Radio, the National Association of State Universities, the National Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Education Association.

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INVENTION

Ground Cotton Picker Salvages Droppings

► **HALF** the cotton now wasted, droppings from the plant to the ground, is expected to be salvaged with a machine recently invented which can be run through the cotton field after picking is completed to gather up this present waste.

Some 10% to 15% of the annual crop is now wasted, being dropped to the earth by the elements or in picking whether by machine or hand. Until now, no economical way has been found to salvage this waste. This new machine will gather up even partly or wholly buried cotton, it is claimed.

The machine is the invention of a Texas physician, Dr. William Rambo, assisted in part by Roy Hanna of the Oklahoma Tulsa Tribune. A patent has been applied for and is now pending. The machine is not yet in production but will be soon, it is expected.

The machine, 14 feet long, can be drawn through the cotton field by tractor, jeep or

a pair of horses. It has a rotary drum three feet in diameter which is equipped with spring steel teeth that dig into the earth.

The teeth snag the cotton fibers and drag them up to a rotary brush which cleans the cotton from the teeth and throws it back into a receiving bin. Important to the machine is a tooth-harrow which loosens up the soil ahead of the rotary drum. The overall result is that good clean cotton is salvaged. All the droppings are not gathered but tests already made show that at least half of them are.

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