

ENGINEERING

Gas Turbines for Autos

► GAS TURBINES will be used in automobiles within the next 50 years to the exclusion of all other kinds of engines.

This was predicted in Edinburgh by Sir Claude Gibb, managing director of C. A. Parsons and Co., in his presidential address to the engineering section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Even sooner, the jet or the gas turbine with jet will be used to the exclusion of all other means of propulsion for all types of aircraft, he said. This type of prime mover meets the requirements so admirably that it is difficult to see how any other

form of power unit can possibly compete.

On land, the gas turbine is more sorely pressed by its competitors, in Sir Claude's opinion. The steam turbine will be used for installations of large power, but the gas turbine will to a great extent supplement the diesel engine.

Gas turbines of 100 horsepower can be made to fit into the engine space of automobiles, and only a compact, low cost efficient regenerative heat exchanger needs to be developed.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1951

MEDICINE

Cortisone for Asthma

► CORTISONE pills may prove a boon, temporarily at least, for patients with severe, exhausting asthma who cannot be helped by other treatment.

Good results in nine out of 12 such patients are reported by Drs. Sidney Friedlaender and Alex S. Friedlaender of Wayne University College of Medicine, Detroit. (JOURNAL, AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Aug. 11).

The good effects in asthma of cortisone and ACTH "shots" have already been reported. The pills, or tablets, of cortisone, however, have the advantages of being easier to take and giving quicker relief.

They have the disadvantage, the Detroit doctors warn, of being subject to greater abuse. Patients taking them should be constantly supervised and carefully watched for possible bad side effects of the hormone. The Detroit doctors think the medicine should be restricted to periods of extreme stress when nothing else helps, and that asthma patients should have careful,

thorough examinations to determine and remove the cause of the trouble, rather than relying on cortisone.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1951

PSYCHOLOGY

On the Beach One Eye Saw Redder than Other

A letter to the Editor from Robert I. Myerson, New York City.

► I HAVE been a reader and fan of SNL for many years, and have always been enlightened and entertained by its varied and excellent content. However, I had always felt that the "science" part of your sponsoring organization's title was the only part of any real significance in more than general terms. I now find I must revise my estimate and endorse the "service" half of the title as well.

On the beach last Sunday I was disturbed by the observation that my right eye saw

things redder than my left. I made a note of this phenomenon and decided to have my eyes checked at the earliest opportunity. Since my visual acuity did not seem to be impaired, I read the mail Monday with no hesitation. You can imagine my interest and gratification in the article, SNL July 28, p. 54, of the current volume. I think anyone will agree that this is "service" with a vengeance.

I thought you might be interested in the timeliness, to one of your readers at least, of what might not ordinarily be more than something of rather general intellectual interest.

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