



WALNUT SHELLS CLEAN—Walnut shells are now replacing sand or other materials likely to pit aluminum at The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio. Using a vacuum tube, Chester Kanecke is drawing finely ground English walnut shells into the machine he uses to clean aluminum tire molds.

MEDICINE

Warn of Persistent Sore

► IF A sore in the mouth lasts three or four weeks without healing, a doctor should be consulted without further delay. The sore may be cancer, warns the American Medical Association.

Cancer within the mouth accounts for approximately eight percent of all human malignant diseases, according to Dr. James W. Hendrick, San Antonio, and Dr. Grant E. Ward, Baltimore. The greatest incidence of such cancers is between the ages of 50 and 60 years, with men being affected five times as often as women.

Because of their accessibility, such cancers should be diagnosed early and adequate treatment instituted, the doctors stated in a report to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Nov. 15). However, the larger percentage, when seen by the tumor specialist, are advanced cases.

Because cancers within the mouth frequently spread to other parts of the body, it is essential not only to eradicate the primary sore, but also to eradicate the involved lymph nodes, which transmit the cancer to other parts of the body, the doctors pointed out.

Microscopic examination of a specimen of the mouth lesion should be made when persistent sores prevail, they stated. The choice of treatment depends upon the location of the tumor, its size, its extent, the

type, the age and general physical condition of the patient, and the lymph node involvement.

These cancers may be treated with irradiation by X-rays or radium, electro-surgery, surgery, or by any combination.

Science News Letter, December 6, 1952

RADIOLOGY

More Patients Saved By High Voltage X-Ray

► MORE WOMEN are being saved from cancer death, thanks to the use of very high voltage X-rays. Evidence for this is reported by Dr. Traian Leucutia of Detroit in the *American Journal of Roentgenology, Radium Therapy and Nuclear Medicine* (Nov.).

The five-year-survival rate during the years 1924 to 1932 was 45%, Dr. Leucutia found from reviewing Harper Hospital, Detroit, records.

The survival rate from 1937 to 1945, when very high voltage X-ray treatment was used, was 60%.

Science News Letter, December 6, 1952

The speed at which a pilot *parachutes* to ground partly depends upon how easily air flows through the parachute's fabric.

PHYSIOLOGY

Tiny Beads Help Study of Heart Failure

► HEART FAILURE, man's biggest killer, is being studied by scientists at the University of California at Los Angeles by means of tiny, colored, radioactive beads.

Injected into the arteries of experimental animals, the beads stimulate a certain kind of blood clot, resulting in a condition almost identical with that of human heart failure.

It was found in the study that only a certain size of bead produces this condition, and that the beads always lodge in a certain part of the blood vessels in the heart.

This led the investigators to believe that a mechanism exists in this particular portion of the blood vessels which only a certain size of bead will trigger. When this mechanism, perhaps a nerve, is triggered, it may cause dilation of blood vessels in other parts of the body, resulting in the sudden drop of blood pressure characteristic of shock.

Members of the research team that developed the new technique are Dr. Clarence Agress, Dr. William G. Clark, Dr. Max Binder, Dr. Martin Rosenberg, Dr. Abraham Schneiderman and Howard Jacobs.

Science News Letter, December 6, 1952

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