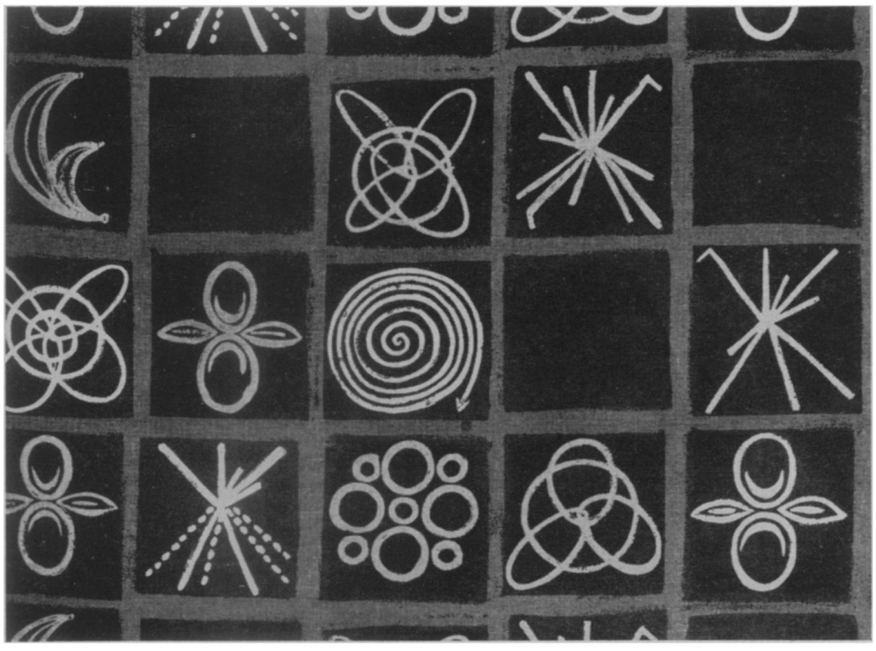

EXPLODING ATOMS TAPESTRY—Handprinted drapery, designed by the Nobel prize winner, Prof. Theodor Svedberg, founder and head of the Gustav Werner Physics Institute, Uppsala, Sweden. The design shows exploding atoms. The color scheme is cyclamen, orange, Chinese lacquer red on black field, relieved by grey.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Nuclear Textile Design

➤ EXPLODING ATOMS have been drawn as a textile design by Prof. Theodor Svedberg, founder and head of the Gustav Werner Physics Institute, Uppsala, who was Nobel prize winner in chemistry, in 1926.

The textiles are hand-printed draperies designed for public institutions, such as schools, banks, theaters, restaurants and airplanes. They are being shown at Nordiska Kompagniet, Scandinavia's largest department store, Stockholm.

Prof. Svedberg had wanted a drapery for the Physics Institute in Uppsala, but found the textiles on the market unsuitable. He, therefore, designed appropriate drapery himself.

The result is not only original but highly suitable for a physics building. Exploding atoms, in cyclamen, Chinese lacquer red and orange on black squares, are printed on dove-grey coarse linens. Physicists can recognize Bohr's electronic curve, which surrounds the atomic nucleus, and also the spiral of an atomic explosion caused by cosmic radiation and caught on a photographic plate.

After completing the atomic drapery, Prof. Svedberg turned his attention to genetics and devised "Chromosomes." The color scheme is black on dove-grey linen with white stripes. A textile artist, Viola Grasten, gave the scientist some assistance, but the design is Prof. Svedberg's.

Prof Svedberg, who is called The for short, was born in 1884. He became professor in physical chemistry in 1912 at the University of Uppsala, but resigned in 1949 to found the Gustav Werner Physics Institute in Uppsala, of which he is the present head.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1954

PALEONTOLOGY

Crocodiles on Celebes In Pleistocene Era

➤ THE FIRST evidence that crocodiles roamed the island of Celebes at the time of the very early development of man on earth is reported by Dr. D. A. Hooijer.

Dr. Hooijer based his finding on two fossilized denture bone fragments found in Pleistocene formations in southwest Celebes, an island off the east coast of Borneo. Comparison with specimens in the Museum of Natural History in Leiden, Holland, showed the fossils to be from a crocodile. However, Dr. Hooijer noted an irregular arrangement of the teeth.

This may be an indication that the bones are from an unknown species, but Dr. Hooijer believes the tooth formation is merely a peculiarity of this single specimen.

The findings are reported in *Copeia* (Oct. 29).

Science News Letter, November 27, 1954

METEOROLOGY

National Disaster Research Institute

➤ A PROPOSAL to set up a National Disaster Research Institute was presented to the American Meteorological Society meeting in Miami Beach, Fla., by Rollins H. Mayer of the Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

Such an institute would cost but a small fraction of the money lost from tornado and hurricane damage, Mr. Mayer said. The savings in lives and property would be considerably more than its operating costs.

The institute would have three main purposes. It would initiate basic research leading to a better understanding of the causes of hurricanes and tornadoes. It would encourage immediate application of recently developed ideas. It would serve as a national warning network for all kinds of disasters, including possible bombings.

Mr. Mayer's plans call for the institute to be controlled by an executive board, with members representing such government agencies as the Weather Bureau, the Navy and Air Force, Civil Defense, the Federal Communications Commission and the National Science Foundation.

The institute, however, would be non-governmental, although Mr. Mayer foresees that most of the money for its support would come from the various government agencies involved.

The meteorologists are expected to decide about authorizing a committee to investigate the potentialities of such an institute at their January meeting in New York.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1954

TECHNOLOGY

Carbon Filter Devised For Industrial Vapors

➤ AN APPLICATION of the gas mask principle has been made to filter out odors and recover valuable vapors from hot industrial exhausts.

The process, now available commercially, uses activated carbon, known for centuries for its almost instantaneous purifying action. Two major obstacles to carbon as an industrial filter were overcome.

Since the substance will not act efficiently on hot, damp exhausts, the new device mixes cooler air with the fumes before they enter the filter. The problem of regenerating the carbon is solved by periodical heating of the filter.

The gases collected by the second process can be condensed and separated for re-use. In some plants, millions of dollars worth of costly chemical solvents, which could be reclaimed by the new filter, escape up the chimney.

The Siftaire, manufactured by the Chemurgic Process Corp., is based on patents of Dr. Frank L. Schneider, professor of chemistry at Queens College, New York.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1954