

INVENTION

Current U.S. Patents

Sheets made of pulverized egg shell membrane, to which certain other substances may be added, improve healing when applied to burns—By Ann Ewing

► EGG SHELL MEMBRANE, the paper-thin layer between the shell and the egg, speeds up and improves healing of burns and other skin-denuded areas when used as outlined in a patent granted by the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Irene Neuhauser of the University of Illinois Medical School, Chicago, has devised a method of pulverizing egg shell membranes, then forming the pulp into a sheet that can be placed over open burns to aid healing.

Use of egg shell membranes for healing burns by her method is being tested by G. D. Searle & Co., Chicago. Dr. Neuhauser told SCIENCE SERVICE. Antibiotics or enzymes, among other substances, may be added to the membrane product, if desired. Various procedures for treating egg shell membranes are outlined in patent 3,196,075.

Dr. Neuhauser said she has tested the product successfully in experiments on about 50 patients.

Previous methods which used the moist membrane itself had "indifferent success," but were used in U.S. folk medicine.

Producing Algae from Sewage

A process for producing red algae continuously from a combination of salty water and sewage earned patent 3,195,271 for Drs. William J. Oswald and Clarence G. Golucke of the University of California, Berkeley.

Drs. Oswald and Golucke recommend a lagoon with hard bottom, in which the mixture of sewage and salty water can be contained for several days. Ocean water alone will not produce the algae, the scientists found. However, the addition of sewage or other nitrogen-containing chemicals makes the algae growth "highly successful."

The scientists assigned patent rights to the Regents of the University of California.

Machine for Reading

Several inventions necessary to a machine for reading printed or typewritten letters and figures now under development by International Business Machines, New York, were granted patents.

Among these the most fundamental one, number 3,196,392, was awarded to Drs. Lawrence P. Horwitz and Glenmore L. Shelton Jr. for a "method of specimen identification utilizing autocorrelation functions," which can be obtained either by computing electronically or optically.

The letter or figure being "read" by the machine is compared with standard reference patterns, a process that can be accom-

plished even while the document is in motion.

Other Patents of Interest

A new compound that produces weight gain in lambs and other animals has been found by Frederick N. Andrews and Martin Stob of West Lafayette, Ind., who assigned rights to patent 3,196,019 to Purdue Research Foundation. Their compound, a rapidly growing fungus known as *Gibberella zeae* (Gordon), not only increases growth rate but can be given to animals "safely and economically without accompanying adverse side effects."

An educational device for teaching facts about relationships between the earth and the sun by duplicating motions of man-made satellites and the planets earned patent 3,195,243 for Folke W. Sundblad of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

A method of making pedestals, lamp bases, planters and other ornamental circular columns was granted patent 3,196,061. Wallace S. Paulson and David G. Herbener of Denver base their method on what is known in geometry as the "hyperboloid of revolution."

• Science News Letter, 88:93 August 7, 1965

TECHNOLOGY

Jet Starter Fires Up Guided Missile Destroyer

► AN AIRCRAFT JET engine starter has been found to be useful in firing up emergency power systems of the Navy's new, lightweight, guided missile destroyers.

The system is a direct adaptation of the engine-starting system of the Boeing 720B jet transport plane. In the event of a power failure aboard the destroyer, the starter will bring the gas turbine engine driving the emergency unit to starting speed in a matter of seconds. The starter is manufactured by the AiResearch Manufacturing Corporation in Phoenix, Ariz.

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TECHNOLOGY

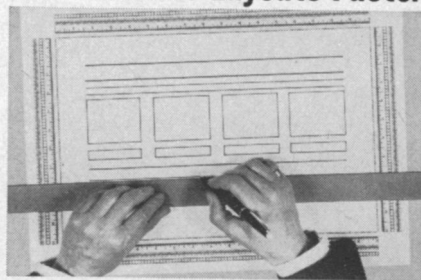
New Burglar-Resistant Glass Protects Stores

► A SHOCK-RESISTANT glass to protect valuable merchandise in store windows against theft is on the market.

The new product, H6 Duplate, consists of two layers of plate glass with an interlayer of tough aircraft type vinyl that can withstand considerable pounding before it will break. It is manufactured by the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company.

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