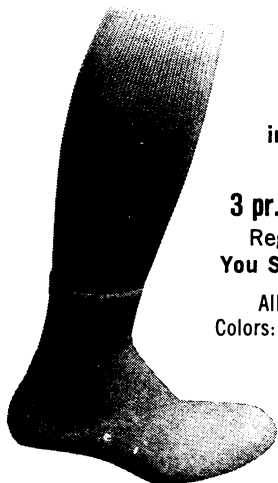


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LETTERS

to the editor

'Third' fights back

Sir:

Pursuant to your remark under the heading "Blame Webster's Third" (SN: 12/23/67) that we are guilty of "kissing off 'buss' without any particples at all," we must point out that buss meaning to kiss is a regular verb and as such has the principle parts indicated according to a scheme uniformly used throughout this dictionary, showing "-ed/ -ing/ -es" to represent the past and past participle endings (-ed), the present participle ending (-ing), and the present 3d singular ending (-s or -es), as explained in paragraph 4.10 on page 17a in the Explanatory Notes in the front of the dictionary.

*Hubert P. Kelsey
G. & C. Merriam Company*

Air Pollution

Sir:

In a recent issue (SN: 12/2/67) there was a letter to the editor by Edward Lindemann of New York. The possibility of using a hydrogen-oxygen engine to decrease air pollution from autos is discussed. It might interest your readers, as well as Lindemann, to know that such an engine was experimented on long before the 1930s. This writer, as well as others, working in 1924 for a Ph.D. degree at the Physical Institute of the University Wurzburg, Germany, saw the director of the Institute, Prof. Wilhelm Wien, a Nobel Prize winner, experiment with an engine using hydrogen as fuel. We witnessed a number of explosions and water floods

produced by these experiments. Then as now the difficulty was to control the immense available power so as to:

- Draw only the amount of power needed when it is small
- Keep the possibility of an explosion in check.

As far as I know these difficulties have not yet been satisfactorily overcome by the numerous inventors and researchers in fuel cells using hydrogen. And if one would base his expectations principally on the available amount of power per weight of material, then the solution of the problem should be expected rather from atomic power.

Anyway, this writer thinks that a practical atomic engine, at least for buses, is not too far away, and he would not be surprised if it comes before a satisfactory hydrogen engine. And the contamination by radioactive fallout and leakage should not be more difficult to take care of than in the atomic submarines.

*M. G. Jacobson
Verona, Pa.*

Correction

Sir:

We know that there's an awful lot of good research going on at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, but the good meteorite analysis research mentioned in SCIENCE NEWS, (12/16) was carried out by Ray Greer, a young solid state scientist at Pennsylvania State University at University Park.

*John F. Henahan
Scientific Information Officer
The Pennsylvania State University*

SCIENCE NEWS

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