

President Wallace's prediction. They, along with other research organizations and institutions, are contributing their bit to the defense of the country."

Science News Letter, April 4, 1942

Soybean Crops Needed

CHINA'S great contribution to America's victory farming, the soybean, will receive greater attention than ever during the coming crop season, G. G. McIlroy, director of the American Soybean Association, announced.

Nine million acres, 54% more than last year, are expected to be planted to this versatile crop, which can contribute feed for the production of meat and milk, oil for explosives, paint, soap and human food, or can be plowed under to give the soil the nitrogen which diversion of nitrates into munitions is taking out of commercial fertilizers.

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Insecticide Shortage

MUNITIONS for man's ceaseless defensive warfare against insects and plant diseases have been forced onto a scarcity basis because of the war, James R. Hile of the Acme White Lead and Color Works, Detroit, revealed. Part of the shortage is due to the more imperative demands of war industries for materials used in the making of fungicides and insecticides, part to the cutting off of overseas sources by Axis conquests.

Arsenic, classic standby of insect fighters, is hit both ways, Mr. Hile explained. About half of the arsenic used in this country comes in normal times from abroad, mainly from Sweden, Belgium and Japan. These sources are lost for the present. At the same time, other industries are demanding larger shares of the arsenic still available. Great quantities are needed in the manufacture of khaki cloth, blankets, etc. Arsenic is demanded in increased quantities for glass-making. It is also needed for the production of chemical weed killers, to replace chlorates now absorbed by the powder-mills.

Rotenone, one of the most important of the organic insecticides, used to come largely from the East Indies, which are now out of the market. South American rotenone, which used to supply about 40% of the nation's normal requirements, can be stepped up to perhaps 60%, but not more. This leaves a bad lack, with no replacements in sight.

A similar situation holds with respect

to the other great plant source of insecticide, pyrethrum. The principal source of this used to be Japan, but the British African colony of Kenya has almost entirely displaced our present Axis enemy so far as pyrethrum is concerned. The entire requirement for 1942 can be supplied from Kenya, if enough shipping space can be made available.

So far as arsenic and rotenone are

concerned, the situation is being saved largely through careful distribution of available supplies. Non-essentials, like grub-proofing of lawns and golf greens and protection of ornamentals, are being put on short rations, and the supplies on hand are being directed to the combating of pests and diseases attacking principal food and fiber crops.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Unified Science Must Serve Unified World After War

Annual Report of Rockefeller Foundation Points Out Nationalistic Partitions in Science Must Disappear

NATIONALISTIC partitions within the world of science must disappear in the world which scientists are to aid in reconstructing after the war, declares President Raymond B. Fosdick of the Rockefeller Foundation, in his annual report.

This is, of course, not a brand-new idea, Dr. Fosdick points out. Scientists have been feeling their way in that direction for at least 300 years—ever since physical science has been recognizable as a distinct field of human thought. But the post-war years must see an acceleration of the process.

"In brief, the age of distinct human societies, indifferent to the fate of one another, has passed forever; and the great task that will confront us after the war is to develop for the community of nations new areas and techniques of cooperative action which will fit the facts of our twentieth century interdependence. We need rallying points of unity, centers around which men of differing cultures and faiths can combine, defined fields of need or goals of effort in which by pooling its brains and resources the human race can add to its own well-being. Only as we begin to build, brick by brick, in these areas of common interest where cooperation is possible and the results are of benefit to all, can we erect the ultimate structure of a united society."

In the meantime, the Foundation faces the problems and perils of the immediate present. Outstanding in its contributions to the nation's total war effort are the measures taken for the protection of American and Allied troops

against tropical diseases, especially the yellow fever that still lurks in Africa and the malarias that beset the defenders of civilization all the way from Trinidad to the Burma road.

Another activity of the Foundation has been the recording on microfilm of vast quantities of scientific data and historic records in bombarded Britain. These compact duplicates of civilization's basic documents can be easily transported out of harm's reach, or buried deep beyond any bomb's penetration. If the bulky originals are destroyed, the microfilm records will still enable scholars of the future to build again on the foundations of today and all past ages.

Science News Letter, April 4, 1942

ASTRONOMY

Swift Stellar Object Still Unsolved Mystery

By CHARLES A. FEDERER, JR.
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THE fast-moving object in the constellation of Leo, the lion, discovered by Dr. Y. Vaisaeae of Turku, Finland, on March 12, has been confirmed and photographed by astronomers at the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Arizona. However, it is not yet known whether the new object is a comet or an asteroid (*See SNL*, March 28).

A week after its discovery, the Lowell observations, made by H. L. Giclas, show that the object is moving about one minute of arc every 15 minutes, which is rather fast for an asteroid, especially since its apparent path is at