

MEDICINE

Chemical Group Important To Life; Present in Food

➤ RECENT EXPERIMENTS reveal the important part in our daily living occupied by a particular arrangement of chemical atoms known as the "labile methyl" group. This group must be provided in our diet, reports the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Aug. 1). Fortunately it is found in a number of foods. Fatty degeneration of the liver is counteracted to some degree by certain organic chemicals, all of which contain this "labile methyl" group.

Absence of such chemicals in experiments on rats, produced a disease condition characterized by kidney degeneration with hemorrhage.

Sources of the "labile methyl" group also counteract harmful effects of excessive doses of certain drugs. This is apparently accomplished by this useful group attaching itself to the toxic drug and thus changing its composition.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1942

ZOOLOGY

English Game Birds Now Do Damage to Crops

➤ FEW BRITISH sportsmen are able to indulge in grouse, partridge or pheasant shooting and as a result, these game birds, and especially the pheasants, are becoming a decided nuisance to farmers in some parts of Britain. The birds do much damage to root and other crops. Although the birds would make welcome addition to Britain's larder, landowners seldom allow tenant farmers to shoot them.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1942

INVENTION

Cotton Picking Machines Work Like Vacuum Cleaner

➤ A COTTON-PICKING machine utilizing the principle of the household vacuum cleaner is the invention of Theo Flewellen of Hernando, Miss., on which he has received patent 2,292,994. An inverted U-shaped pipe passes over the cotton row, bearing on each of its arms a series of flare-mouthed apertures. Suitable machinery mounted on the chassis provides the partial vacuum necessary to suck the ripe lint into these open mouths.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1942

RESOURCES

Nettles Used to Make Paper by Scottish Firm

➤ A METHOD of making paper from nettles has been devised by a Scottish firm of papermakers. The company is prepared to buy 1,000 tons of ordinary nettles this summer at a minimum price of \$48.60 per ton, it is reported from London.

The Germans have already been using these weeds for some time to supplement their supply of fibers for cloth.

Another firm is anxious to buy 200 tons for experimental purposes and if these tests are successful, a considerable quantity of nettles will be needed as other paper manufacturers are expected to adopt the process.

Many acres of nettles have already been planted in various parts of England. Ground can be used which is not suitable for food production and there is little danger of the weeds spreading over the countryside as they are harvested before the seeding stage is reached.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1942

**Dr. Braddock's Microscope Was Commissioned Today**

DR. BRADDOCK wants a new microscope—a Bausch & Lomb Microscope . . . and he's going to get it. It won't be today, though, for today America commissioned a new cruiser.

On this ship there are many optical instruments with a myriad of optical parts, made by the same hands that, in other times, might be grinding the lenses for Dr. Braddock's microscope. There are range finders fore and aft, and a score of smaller ones in strategic places about the ship. The glasses with which the officers scan the horizon are Bausch & Lomb products. Yes, and there's a B&L Microscope, a duplicate of the one Dr. Braddock wants, in the laboratory of the ship's hospital.

Dr. Braddock still wants his microscope, but because he knows these things he is willing to wait. Thousands of "Dr. Braddock's" are making earlier victory possible.

Throughout the Bausch & Lomb plant, optical engineers and optical craftsmen are working long and tirelessly to further America's war effort. The lessons they are learning in the white heat of the drive for Victory will be available later to further the peacetime interests of science and industry.

BAUSCH & LOMB
OPTICAL COMPANY • ESTABLISHED 1853

AN AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION PRODUCING OPTICAL GLASS AND INSTRUMENTS FOR MILITARY USE, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INDUSTRY AND EYESIGHT CORRECTION