

## • New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **QUICK-DRYING** paints and lacquers have enormously reduced the time that tanks and planes must be held up while the paint is drying. One of the newest of these is a short-bake finish of the urea-formaldehyde resin type, developed by the same laboratories that produced the nitrocellulose lacquer used on automobiles, and the glistening white resin enamel used on refrigerators. A form of the latter has been developed as a camouflage finish for airplanes.

*Science News Letter, October 17, 1942*

⚙️ **AN IMPROVED** centrifuge for blood plasma, which separates the plasma from the blood cells quickly and more effectively than previous machines, is the war contribution of one instrument maker. The machine swings four bottles up to speeds of 2500 revolutions per minute developing a centrifugal force 1700 times gravity. A feature is that the head in which the bottles swing revolves with them so that the bottles are always in dead air. This reduces friction and undesirable heating of the blood.

*Science News Letter, October 17, 1942*

⚙️ **FLASHLIGHT POWDER**, which oldtime photographers used and which made such a messy smoke, is back again, but this time inside a bulb. Powdered zirconium, aluminum and other flash-making ingredients are aggregated into beads or pellets and mounted on wires that carry the igniting charge. This kind of flash-lamp, the inventor states, is easier and cheaper to build than the present foil or filament-loaded type. The device has been patented.

*Science News Letter, October 17, 1942*

⚙️ **TEETERING TABLES** may give considerable annoyance. A patent has recently been granted on a glass glider which screws into the furniture leg, so that if one leg is short, the glider can simply be screwed out a bit.

*Science News Letter, October 17, 1942*

⚙️ **AN EMERGENCY** blackout flashlight you can put together yourself is shown in the picture. No tools are required but scissors and your fingers. The lamp is held in place just over the central pole of the battery by an ordinary paper clip. The long end of this clip is thrust down between the zinc of the battery and the outer cardboard shell. The other end is stretched out and bent



around the lamp, following the threads. To light the lamp just press down on the paper-clip spring. To keep the light permanently on, screw the lamp down. The shade is cut out of stiff paper or thin cardboard and held on with a rubber band around the battery. The light was devised in preparation for a blackout when complete flash-lamps could not be obtained.

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If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 126.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

## Rabbit Trappers Should Guard Against Tularemia

➤ **TRAPPERS** out for the increased take of rabbits urged by the WPB and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to relieve the shortage in pelts used in making felt hats, should remember the danger of getting tularemia from the animals and protect themselves from it.

Because of the rubber shortage the usual advice to wear rubber gloves while skinning or dressing wild rabbits is impractical this season. The rubber gloves have been advised in the past because the germs of tularemia, or rabbit fever as it is also called, can pass through healthy skin and do not need a cut or scratch or bite to use as a door into the body. Neither cotton nor leather gloves can be relied on to bar the germs.

Best alternatives to the rubber glove protection that can be advised are: 1. Don't handle rabbits if you have any

cuts, scratches or breaks in the skin of your hands; 2. Wash hands thoroughly with plenty of soap and water after handling rabbits and use a disinfectant if the hands, face or arms become soiled with blood or other infected material; 3. Keep your hands away from your face and eyes while working over the rabbits, as the infection is sometimes acquired by rubbing the eyes with soiled fingers.

Rabbits are not all infected with the tularemia germs, of course. Sick rabbits, however, should be viewed with suspicion, though trappers are less likely to notice this than the hunter who sees whether the animal is lively and runs well.

Rabbits in the Central States are more likely to be infected with tularemia than those in New England, the West or the South, judging from reports of the prevalence of the disease in humans.


Housewives and cooks, who may be using more rabbit meat because of the shortage of other kinds of meat this year, should know that the germs of tularemia are killed by thorough cooking. The germs remain alive and virulent, however, in the red juices of partly cooked game.

Peculiar whitish spots on the spleen and liver of rabbit carcasses should make one suspect tularemia. Such carcasses, the U. S. Public Health Service warns, should be discarded and buried or burned.

*Science News Letter, October 17, 1942*

Two pilot training schools will soon be established in Mexico, similar to the 600 now operated in the United States by the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

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