

MEDICINE

Clinical Congress Latest Convention War Casualty

➤ **LATEST** among big annual conventions that have become casualties of war is the clinical congress of the American College of Surgeons. Already postponed from sometime in October to Nov. 17, and moved to Cleveland from Chicago when the U. S. Army Air Corps took over the selected convention hotel in Chicago, the meeting has now been cancelled.

Patriotically, the Board of Regents voted to cancel the meeting in order not to interfere with the successful prosecution of the war by taking surgeons temporarily away from their civilian duties, embarrassing the transportation system, and interrupting the work of the medical profession in Cleveland by preparations incident to such a meeting.

Science News Letter, November 7, 1942

SAFETY

Increasing Accidents Due To Inexperienced Workers

➤ **THE SWELLING** tide of farm accidents due to inexperienced men, women and children working to produce the food for freedom, calls for an augmented safety program, Kirk Fox, editor of *Successful Farming*, declared at the meeting of the National Safety Council in Chicago.

At present there are more accidental deaths on the farm than in any other industry. Some 4,500 farm people are killed annually. The number of serious injuries likewise runs extremely high, Mr. Fox pointed out.

Farm organizations and machinery manufacturers are doing much to reduce this toll. But from facts presented by Mr. Fox, it would seem that danger to inexperienced workers, especially those from the cities, could be greatly reduced in two ways. First, the worker must learn safety measures and a respect for the machinery he must handle. Second, a gradual physical toughening program would reduce injuries due to fatigue and strain to which the new farm worker bows long before the seasoned farmer.

Science News Letter, November 7, 1942

An electric *detector*, invented in England, prevents damage to saws by "finding" metal nails or bolts hidden in timber.

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **A BALL-BEARING SCREW** is a curious novelty for which a patent has recently been granted. It is adapted to heavy screw jacks and the like, greatly reducing the force necessary to turn the screw. The threads are hollow grooves, and so are those of the nut in which the screw turns. The balls roll in these grooves. But as the screw advances the balls would roll out of one end, so they are returned to the other end by a passage through the nut.

Science News Letter, November 7, 1942

⚙️ **TO PREVENT THEFT** of tire or wheel from a motor vehicle, a recent patented invention provides a metallic strap, fastened at one end to the wheel disk, passing over the hub cap, and fastened at the other end to the disk by means of a lock. This prevents a thief from removing the cap to get at the wheel bolts. A cup at the locking end covers the valve stem, thus preventing him from deflating the tire to remove it. Where there is no hub cap, a straight strap is used which will make at least two of the wheel bolts inaccessible.

Science News Letter, November 7, 1942

⚙️ **A NEW ELECTRIC** water light which eliminates the menace of an open flame on an oily sea will be welcome to the seamen of sinking ships. The new light, cylindrical in shape, lights up automatically on striking the water. A weighted base keeps it floating upright. It will burn for ten hours or more. The casing and dome are of transparent plastic, methyl methacrylate. By use of this plastic the weight of the light has been reduced to about one-fifth that of the usual water light. It is attached by a line to the life preserver or raft.

Science News Letter, November 7, 1942

⚙️ **A "THUMB-SPRAY"** attachment for fire extinguishers makes it possible to throw either a jet or a spray in case, like the rest of us, you are still in doubt which is better for an incendiary bomb. Fire extinguishers, built in the days before the controversy, are equipped only with a simple nozzle which throws a solid stream. The attachment, which readily clamps to the nozzle, enables you to choose between stream and spray. Pressure of the thumb converts from one to the other.

Science News Letter, November 7, 1942

⚙️ **THE PLASTIC SCABBARD** shown in the illustration is lightening the bur-



den of our troops throughout the world, according to reports approved by the War Department. The scabbard, though light, is strong and durable, and is said to be the best yet developed by the Army for hard service in all climates. The plastic is cellulose acetate butyrate, which is used also for bomber visors, gas mask lenses, tank and jeep parts.

Science News Letter, November 7, 1942

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 129.

A honeybee carries approximately one-third of its weight in nectar.

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