



"Buy British!"

➤ **REALLY GOOD** Americans will "buy British" when shopping for holly. That isn't a gesture of friendliness to our ally in the present world emergency. As a matter of fact, the English holly now found on American market stalls is "English once removed"; for it is all grown here in the United States. Center of American cultivation of European holly is in the Pacific Northwest, where the mild, moist climate most nearly resembles that of the rainy British Isles.

The real reason for urging purchase of glossy English holly instead of the native species is that the latter is gathered from trees growing wild in the woods, usually by unauthorized persons whose harvesting methods are hasty,

careless and destructive. The cultivated holly, on the other hand, comes from regularly established nurseries, and is the product of legitimate investment, management and labor. The less native holly we purchase, the fewer of our remaining American holly trees will be wrecked by looters of the woodlands.

If the price of American-grown English holly seems too high, there is an acceptable substitute in the "synthetic" Christmas greens made by combining the glossy evergreen leaves of mountain laurel with berry-covered twigs of one or another of the native holly species that shed their leaves in the fall. Mountain laurel is so abundant in the Eastern woods that no amount of Christmas plundering seems to make the slightest impression on it; and the bright-berried but leafless hollies, that rather favor swampy lands as habitat, are in no danger of extermination either. So most conservationists will at least tolerate these combination holiday decorations, even while they decry the despoliation of the true native holly itself.

If you live in any part of the country where native holly will grow (which means from New England to lower Michigan, south to Florida and Texas, together with most of the Pacific coast area) you can grow your own holly tree with very little trouble. All the larger nurseries stock them; or you can start your own cuttings if you like. This used to be nearly impossible, for holly twigs do not naturally strike root very easily.

However, synthetic growth hormones that will almost produce roots on a broomstick are for sale by all seed stores, and holly cuttings respond very readily to treatment with them.

*Science News Letter, December 12, 1942*

#### CHEMISTRY

### Chemical Industry Medal Presented to Dr. Howe

➤ **THE CHEMICAL** Industry Medal, one of the highest honors within the gift of chemical science, was presented to Dr. Harrison Howe of Washington, D. C., editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, at a joint meeting of the American section of the Society of Chemical Industry and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

After the presentation, which was made by Dr. Lincoln T. Work, research director of the Metal and Thermite Corporation, the meeting was addressed by Dr. Gustavus J. Esselen, Boston consulting chemist, and Watson Davis, director of Science Service, who gave a sketch of Dr. Howe's life and told of his professional achievements.

Dr. Howe spoke on chemistry in international affairs, calling particular attention to the contributions by chemists in making America strong for war and prosperous in peace. He cited the work now going on in vitamin fortification of foods and in food dehydration, and recalled such chemical triumphs of the past as the breaking of the Japanese camphor monopoly through the development of a synthetic camphor, the release from dependence on German potash deposits through the opening up of American potash resources and the discovery of a cheap process for the production of toluene (basis of TNT) from crude oil.

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