

They are still laboring under the impression that hordes of unwashed, illiterate people are clamoring at the gates. Actually, Dr. Keppel said, if every application for a visa were granted, the number would be only one-tenth that allowed under pre-war immigration quotas. Only about one-half of the number is approved and only about half of these get to this country.

The immigrants today are to a large extent people of culture. A large proportion is made up of professional people, such as doctors, dentists, nurses and research workers. Dr. Keppel's suggestion for temporary, special type licenses for the doctors was made with the hope of helping to solve the problem of how to use these refugees to the best advantage of the United States and still protect the jobs of those Americans away at war.

Science News Letter, March 27, 1943

Japs May Spread Malaria

➤ THE JAPS as they retreat may introduce malaria mosquitoes into the areas our troops will occupy and which are now free of malaria, Prof. Henry E. Meleney, of New York University College of Medicine, declared at the meeting.

Not all the territory in the Pacific theater is malarial. The Pacific isles which were mandated to Japan after the last war are all entirely free from malaria mosquitoes, Prof. Meleney pointed out.

It is possible, he said, that these mosquitoes may deliberately be brought into the islands by the Japs as they leave. The Japs have been accused of similar tactics in the past, specifically of dropping plague-infected rat fleas into China.

Science News Letter, March 27, 1943

The post-war refrigerator might even provide the warm, dry storage space, needed for such things as crackers and breakfast food, by utilizing waste heat from the condensing unit.

Science News Letter, March 27, 1943

MEDICINE

Blood Plasma Successful Fighting Shock from Fever

➤ SUCCESSFUL use of blood plasma to fight shock from fever treatment for gonorrhea is reported, apparently for the first time, by Lieut. Arthur M. Pruce, chief of the section of physical and fever therapy at Stark General Hospital, Charleston, S. C. (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Mar. 20).

Lieut. Pruce explains that he is reporting this use of plasma "because our armed forces have instituted a rapidly expanding program of fever therapy to treat venereal diseases" and shock is one of the more dangerous complications of this kind of treatment.

Rise in the pulse rate and fall in blood pressure, indicating impending collapse, forced discontinuance of the fever treatment after about five and one-half hours in the case Lieut. Pruce reports. In spite of treatment with the usual antishock measures, the patient went into shock six hours after the fever treatment was discontinued. At this point about one-half a pint of blood plasma was injected into the patient's vein. Within 20 minutes the patient recovered from the shock condition.

"Interestingly enough," Lieut. Pruce adds, "the patient was cured of gonorrhea in spite of only five and three-quarters hours of therapeutic fever."

Science News Letter, March 27, 1943

INVENTION

British Armored Vehicle At Home on Land or Sea

➤ A KIND of steel hippopotamus, able to get around in water, through swamps, and on solid ground, is the invention offered by two Englishmen, G. M. Gibbs and T. R. Tusting of London, for patent 2,309,947. Armored, it might serve as a means for taking commandos over the narrow seas, up the beach and right on inland. The boat (if that's what you want to call it) has tractor treads for soft-ground maneuvering, and wheels for moving more rapidly over roads or hard terrain.

Science News Letter, March 27, 1943

ENGINEERING

Dream Refrigerator

Touch of a button will open the door of future refrigerator for post-war housewives. Ice cubes will be automatically released.

➤ TOUCH OF A BUTTON may open a post-war household refrigerator that will provide automatic defrosting, zero chamber for frozen foods, ice cubes automatically released, ice water from a faucet and other revolutionary devices. These practical possibilities are offered by Glenn Muffly of Springfield, Ohio, in a report to the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers.

The door-closing rhumba will no longer feature the housewife's departure from the refrigerator with both hands full. Neither need she fumble to open the door while putting things away. Just touch a button with your elbow to make the door automatically open or close is the idea worked out in detail by Mr. Muffly.

Besides throwing away the door handle, the hinges can be so thoroughly concealed, he declares, that you couldn't hang a spider web on one.

Inside there should be a separate compartment for the frozen foods which will be much more popular after the war. This cubic foot or two of "freezer" space will have a separate thermostatic control. Ice cream, fish and frozen foods will be cooled whenever temperature

rises to say 10 degrees Fahrenheit no matter whether the remainder of the refrigerator is already cold enough or not.

Getting ice without fuss is possible by a device that Mr. Muffly has been operating in his own kitchen. Ice disks are frozen on separately refrigerated spots on or near the bottom of a water tank which rests on raised areas of the evaporator units. Then, during idle periods of the evaporator, these disks melt free and float up to the top of the water where they can be scooped out when wanted.

The small tank used is provided with a faucet to supply plenty of ice water for drinking.

Defrosting may be done by a time switch but, better yet, the evaporator unit should be non-frosting or defrost at every cycle so that the small bit of water produced could be re-evaporated into the room. A post-war refrigerator that shows frost when you open the door will look like an automobile with a starting crank hanging out, says Mr. Muffly.

Storage space will be rearranged better to accommodate the unwieldy watermelon and permit milk bottles to be slid past each other on the shelves,