spicuous plants. In the zone of sand-binding grasses, sea-oats is by far the dominant plant, its waving monotony punctuated towards the inland margin by stiff-stemmed yuccas.

The stabilized zone of trees is the most complex part of the dune plant world. Most constant throughout are palmettos, usually sprawling undergrowth bushes, but sometimes tall tree forms also. Oaks, of Southern species, abound; often (though not always) pines as well. There are one or two kinds of holly, with smooth-edged leaves that fall off in winter.

Highest vegetational development, corresponding to the beech-maple "climax" community of the famous Lake Michigan dunes, is reached when the large-flowered magnolia appears among the oaks, like a queen who finds that her hardy pioneer fighters have made the frontier safe for her regal presence.

Science News Letter, March 27, 1943

CHEMISTRY

Dr. Elvehjem Wins Medal For Work in Nutrition

➤ THE WILLARD GIBBS Medal, highest award of international scope which the American Chemical Society's Chicago Section can bestow, has been given to Dr. Conrad Arnold Elvehjem, professor of biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin.

A long record of original research in chemistry brought Dr. Elvehjem the honor. In 1928 he received wide recognition with his associates for work involving trace elements in nutrition. They discovered that copper is essential to the formation of hemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying red stuff of the blood.

Later their studies revealed the place of a number of metals in nutrition, such as iron, manganese and aluminum.

While at Cambridge Dr. Elvehjem conducted studies on tissue respiration which have since been applied to the study of vitamin functions.

Use of nicotinic acid in prevention and cure of pellagra developed from Dr. Elvehjem's greatest discovery: the role of nicotinic acid in animal nutrition.

He is now conducting studies on the newer members of the growing family of B vitamins.

For these and other researches, Dr. Elvehjem will formally be presented with the medal at a meeting of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society on May 20.

Science News Letter, March 27, 1943

INVENTION

Device Saves Ammunition By Reducing Gun "Climb"

➤ TERRIBLE ammunition-waster is the tendency of submachine ("Tommy") guns and automatic rifles to "climb;" it is difficult even for experienced gunners to keep their muzzles at proper elevation when full-automatic fire is on. To overcome this tendency, Eugene G. Reising, well-known gunmaker of Hartford, Conn., has developed a simple muzzle attachment on which he has received patent 2,313,669.

It is tubular in general outline, with internal diameter appreciably greater than the weapon's bore. Through its upper side are cut several transverse slots, and a cuplike lip extends across the lower side of the outer end. Effect of the blast, reacting against these, is to push the muzzle down, neutralizing the climbing tendency.

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