



**CAPACITY, 250**—This huge bus with two full decks has more cubic capacity than a box car and will carry more than 250 soldiers. The low center of gravity makes it safe at high speeds.

## ENTOMOLOGY

## Sabadilla Now a Spray

**Powdered seed, long used as insecticide against lice and roaches, may replace pyrethrum as household weapon against flies and crop spray.**

➤ **POWDERED SABADILLA** seed, long used as an insecticide to destroy lice and roaches, has now been processed so that it can be used as a spray, and it may replace the war-limited supply of pyrethrum as the active poison in many household and crop sprays.

Tests with the new sabadilla spray show it to be entirely satisfactory in the control of house flies. Tests with crop insect pests have not been carried to completion but preliminary results indicate that the spray will be equally effective in their destruction.

The development of sabadilla spray is the work of T. C. Allen and Robert Dicke of the agricultural staff of the University of Wisconsin. They set out to find an American substitute for the Japanese pyrethrum. The present supply of sabadilla is imported from Central and South America, mostly from Mexico and Venezuela. About 300,000 pounds are used each year for the powdered lice and roach exterminator. Some 3,000,000 pounds will be needed if it is to be used to replace pyrethrum completely.

A North American variety of saba-

dilla is now found as a weed in Texas. It has not been used because the powder made from its seeds did not seem to have insecticidal properties. In the new spray it is highly effective. It would seem that the United States may therefore raise much of the total amount of sabadilla needed in addition to the available Latin-American supply so that we may be completely independent of the Japanese product.

*Science News Letter, April 3, 1943*

## ENGINEERING

## Giant Bus Is Built To Transport Soldiers

➤ **IT LOOKS** so huge that you look for tracks under it, are surprised when there are none. It's 45 feet long, 10 feet wide, 15 feet high, with more cubic capacity than a box car. It rolls up to the gates of huge Camp Carson and soldiers emerge in a seemingly endless stream. Not until 250 or so have come out, like the crowd emerging from a telephone booth in the old Keystone comedies, is

it empty. Then it lumbers off after another load.

It's a bus, but what a bus. Camp Carson soldiers formerly had to hoof it because Colorado Springs Bus Co. could not get conventional buses.

The company asked Dean Gillespie, automotive engineer, to design one out of non-strategic materials.

He thinks the resulting bus is just what the doctor ordered for many a war-congested industrial community to get workers to their jobs and back home. It's light—27,000 pounds with tractor. Two full decks, above and below, seat 100, with wide aisles for standees. It can safely go as fast as any bus, due to a low center of gravity.

More are on the way. The first took about 90 days to build, but they can be built much quicker once the first few are off the line.

*Science News Letter, April 3, 1943*

## INVENTION

## Cooked Foods Can Be Dehydrated By New Process

➤ **DEHYDRATED** foods now being shipped in immense quantities to our armed forces and to our overseas allies are prepared by putting raw vegetables and meat into the drier, separately. A process for dehydrating complete cooked dishes, like soups, puddings, or pork-and-beans, is the subject of patent 2,308,601, issued to a Swedish inventor, J. G. W. Gentele of Stockholm.

In this process, the prepared cooked food is subjected, in a vacuum chamber, to short-wave infra-red radiation at a temperature at least 100 degrees Centigrade above the boiling point of water, until the greater part of the contained moisture is driven out. Then it is packed for shipping. To use, the dried food is simply "rehydrated" by adding water and heating.

*Science News Letter, April 3, 1943*

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### WANTED

#### PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER

—Preferably one with several years industrial experience. Position requires mechanical ingenuity, inventive ability and enthusiasm for scientific matters. Opening is with established manufacturer of electrical household appliances and other things. Excellent working and living conditions.

Swartzbaugh Mfg. Co., Toledo, Ohio

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