nautics Administration is paying women in training for specific technical jobs. Some industrial concerns are even giving nominal salaries to women while they are being educated in first-rank engineering colleges.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

METALLURGY

New Method Reported For Silver-Plating Magnesium

➤ SILVERPLATING objects made of magnesium by the electroplating method presents many difficulties which perhaps may now be overcome by new processes. After the war magnesium will probably be used very widely on appliances in common use, as the manufacture of magnesium has very greatly increased as a war measure. It is lighter than aluminum and can be used for many of the same purposes.

Magnesium is a white, lustrous metal, the lightest of metals in common use. Large pieces oxidize superficially and it is sometimes desirable to protect household articles with silver.

A method by which silver can be electroplated on magnesium was given at Pittsburgh by Francis J. Bowen and L. I. Gilbertson, of Washington State College, at the meeting of the Electrochemical Society. These men collaborated in the development of the process.

The magnesium must be brought to a bright finish before electroplating. This can be done with fine emery paper, followed by a cloth-covered wheel. It is then cleaned in a bath containing sodium carbonate, tri-sodium phosphate, sodium hydroxide and ammonium lauryl sulfate.

The electrolytic bath contained silver cyanide, potassium cyanide and boric acid. The silver electro deposited on magnesium by this treatment was in the form of white, smooth, hard, adherent silver films.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

MEDICINE

Drug Being Sought

Important part of war effort is work in many laboratories to find more effective drug against the venereal diseases.

➤ A HIGHLY important but little known part of the medical war effort is the intensive work now in progress in many laboratories throughout the United States to find a more effective and more acceptable prophylactic drug against the five venereal diseases, syphilis, gonorrhea, chancroid, lymphogranuloma venereum and granuloma inguinale.

The scope and urgency of the problem were reported by Dr. Geoffrey Rake, of the Squibb Institute for Medical Research, at the meeting of the New York Bacteriologists' War Research Projects Group.

"Although the rate of new infections with venereal disease in the armed services of the United States, 4%, is the lowest rate in our military history, there are reasons for concern," Dr. Rake stated, "for this rate is three and one-half times the civilian rate.

"It will result in the loss of some 8,000,000 man-days a year and it may be expected to increase unless active measures are taken to prevent it.

"Added to this is the fact that the distribution of our armed forces throughout the world and particularly in the tropical and subtropical zones will mean an increase particularly in those venereal diseases, lymphogranuloma venereum, chancroid and granuloma inguinale, about which least is known from the prophylactic point of view."

Present methods of prophylaxis, if properly applied, are probably efficacious against gonorrhea and maybe against syphilis, but are of unknown value so far as the other three venereal diseases are concerned, Dr. Rake said. Even with regard to syphilis and gonorrhea, however, many improvements are urgently needed, for example, to provide more effective penetration of the drug into the infected tissues and to make the prophylactic easier to use.

Disinfection Needs Further Study

Disinfection, of utmost importance in protecting health in military and civilian life, needs further study to bring about more satisfactory practical application, the bacteriologists were told by Dr. M. L. Isaacs, of Yeshiva College.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943

GEOLOGY

Great Magnesium Source In Nevada Deposit

➤ MAGNESIUM in major quantities, for the war effort and for the light-metal era that will come after the war, can be obtained from an immense deposit of dolomite near Las Vegas, Nev., in the Boulder Dam area, the U. S. Bureau of Mines declares. Bureau chemists state that they have developed a process for converting the dolomite (a magnesium-containing limestone) into magnesia, and also an electrolytic method for extracting the pure magnesium from the latter compound.

Sufficient engineering data are already in hand, the chemists added, to justify the erection of a small commercial-scale plant to process the dolomite and thus pave the way for full development of the great beds by private industry. One privately owned plant already operating in the vicinity is using magnesite that has been hauled more than 1,000 miles by a roundabout route from another dolomite deposit in Nevada, and it is believed that the expense and delays thus involved might be obviated through the development of magnesite-producing establishments at the Las Vegas site, where total available dolomite amounts to an estimated 400,000,000 tons.

Science News Letter, April 17, 1943