

Goddess of Love—one of whose classic names was Maia.

The late Medieval and Renaissance times, when not merely children but young grown-ups danced around the May-pole, all this was better remembered. That accounts for the stricter attitude of the moralists of the times, and the eventual attempts at total suppression undertaken by the Puritan government of England during Cromwell's reign.

It probably also accounts for the lesser observance of May Day in this country, since the cultural atmosphere of at least the northern states was largely established by the descendants of Puritan settlers. Only as their austerity has relaxed with the passing of generations have May-baskets and the May-pole returned.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

### New Aid to Workers' Ears By Plastic Ear Molds

➤ A NEW aid to protect the hearing of workers in noisy industries, such as shipbuilding, and which promises to be "the solution for certain industrial ear problems" is reported by Dr. David A. McCoy, of Boston (*Journal, American Medical Association*, April 24).

It consists of an ear mold of transparent plastic lucite, made to fit each worker's ear. This custom-made feature provides a good fit with no leaks of noise and one which is comfortable to wear all day.

The ear mold reduces the intense and high-frequency noises, which are distressing, painful and deafening, but lets the wearer hear people talking without trouble.

A further advantage of this plastic ear mold is that it shuts out the flying balls of hot slag which are a danger to the ears of welders and chippers.

The new ear molds were tried for two weeks by 30 welders, chippers, burners, buffers and other workers in the California Shipbuilding Corporation, Dr. McCoy reports. All the workers found them satisfactory and about 500 have now bought them without any advertising by the ear mold company.

Workers who used them report not only that the molds shut out the intense noise but also that as a result of not being distracted by it, they can do more work in a day.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

## • New Machines and Gadgets •

⊗ A NEWLY designed high-speed scoop for earth excavation is said to cut cost by half. Mounted on four rubber-tired wheels, it can travel on pavement. The device is considerably lighter in weight than the former cast steel model.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

⊗ BLACK-OUT PAINT has been developed which can be easily applied to windows with brush or spray. It can be removed readily with a rag dipped in turpentine. Forming an opaque semi-soft flexible film, this non-cracking paint expands with the glass. A special white paint can be put over the black paint to lighten up the interior of the building.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

⊗ WASTE TRIMMINGS of plastic used in a commercial laboratory are molded as heads on common tacks or small metal studs. These are being used in the laboratory as stick pins to replace hard-to-get metal thumbtacks.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

⊗ A COLLAPSIBLE BED that can be attached to and folded within an office desk has recently been patented. The telescopic frame can also be used with other types of furniture such as a radio cabinet in an apartment or automobile trailer.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

⊗ THE NEW AIRPORT runway light, which an engineer is viewing through a filter glass in the picture, is strong enough to withstand the impact of giant

planes. The guiding light continues to burn under a 50-ton load, nearly three times the strength of former lights. Designed in about the size and shape of a fire hydrant, the unit is buried underground except for the top three inches.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

⊗ ALUMINUM WELDERS using hydrogen torches are now protected by new goggles which filter out all glare, relieving eyestrain and permitting a better view of the work.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

⊗ BOX-CAR oil carriers are a future possibility. A model now under test is a standard automobile-type steel box-car into which has been fitted four steel tanks encased in wooden boxes. The car has a capacity of 12,200 gallons, considerably more than the ordinary tank car.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

⊗ WINDOWS made of the metal beryllium are used in a new X-ray outfit for testing materials for bombing planes and other war machines. Beryllium is opaque to ordinary light but it is more transparent to certain kinds of X-rays than glass. A very thin disk of pure beryllium is sealed in the wall of a vacuum X-ray tube by a special process.

*Science News Letter, May 1, 1943*

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 154.

Spots on clothing are removed more effectively by several short applications of cleaning fluids than by single long treatments.

There are more than 20,000 seeds in an ounce of lettuce, carrot or tomato seed, it is reported.



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