

Do You Know?

Babbini is a new insecticide produced in Peru to use against cotton plant pests.

Switzerland *watch factories* are working full time, and exports in 1943 were 17% higher than those of the preceding year.

Large quantities of *soap* are used in the wire-making industry to decrease friction as the wire is drawn through dies to reduce it to the desired size.

Diesel engines in various parts of the world are operating satisfactorily on linseed, cottonseed, peanut, tung, palm and camphor oils.

Waterproof *matches*, developed for use in jungle areas and at sea, will light after being submerged in water for many hours.

Forty-watt fluorescent *lamp* recently developed does not require a starter and operates on a special type of instant-starting ballast.

The *stingless bee*, scientifically *Melipona beecheii*, was the one particularly favored in Mexico and Central America; it is sometimes called the "loyal" or "lady" bee.

Foxes and minks are the two principal animals raised on American fur farms, with rabbits rating next; martens, muskrats, raccoons, chinchillas and others are raised in limited numbers.

The total amount of *iodine* found in the average man weighs a little less than a drop of water; about one-half of this essential material is located in the thyroid gland and the rest distributed to every cell in the body.

MATHEMATICS DICTIONARY

Second Printing, Second Edition

American Library Association's Subscription Books (encyclopedias, dictionaries, etc.) Committee says in Subscription Books Bulletin, Oct. 43: "In its subject field there is no work directly comparable to the Mathematics Dictionary. Because of its usefulness to anyone seriously interested in mathematics, the volume is recommended for personal, school or library purchase. For those already possessing the 1942 edition, purchase of the 1943 edition is suggested only if the dictionary is extensively used or a second copy is desired." Send \$3.00 to Digest Press, Department 3B, Van Nuys, California, or Science News Letter.

From Page 187

resistant at Farragut is at present an unanswered question. It has been suggested that the germs developed the resistance as a result of the prophylaxis. The small daily doses, according to this theory, were not enough to knock out the germs but just enough to let them get used to the drug and learn to tolerate it. However, this did not occur at other naval activities where identical prophylactic programs were instituted and the same types of streptococci were present.

There is another striking difference between Farragut and other places: Streptococci at Farragut thrive 365 days of the year instead of following the usual strep life cycle of four months of increasing pathogenicity in the winter, a critical decline and then a long period of quiescence in the summer. Farragut is the only activity in the Navy where streptococcal diseases are prevalent throughout all sea-

sons. It may be, therefore, that conditions in Idaho's panhandle favor bacterial mutation. That may explain not only the sulfadiazine resistance of the streptococci but the region's ancient reputation.

The experience at Farragut provides a warning against the wishful thinking that all you have to do to avoid sore throats, scarlet fever, rheumatic fever, and other streptococcal diseases is to take a sulfa pill every day. Chemoprophylaxis against the streptococci is a valuable adjunct and effective within certain limits but it does have its limitations. Other recognized measures for preventing the spread of streptococci, such as isolating patients even if they have only sore throats, are essential and oiling floors to control dust, ultraviolet irradiation of the air and use of triethylene glycol vapor to sterilize the air may also be called for.

Science News Letter, March 24, 1945

RADIO

New FM Converter

➤ A NEW FM (frequency modulation) converter, built by the Engineering Department of the Federal Communications Commission, will prevent the possibility of \$50,000,000 worth of FM receivers now in use from becoming obsolete. The new converter will enable you to pick up FM broadcasts in the new part of the spectrum to which the FCC proposes to move FM broadcasting.

Patterned along the design of remote-control tuning devices and wireless record players which can be used with a standard broadcast receiver, the FCC converter can be operated from any convenient location in a room with the present receiver. If operated from an armchair, you can tune stations in and out without touching your main receiver, making it a lazyman's remote control.

It was developed by the FCC as a result of protests from FM broadcasters at recent hearings following the publication of FCC proposed frequency allocation.

These broadcasters declared that by moving FM up in the spectrum, the FCC was wiping out thousands of expensive receivers now in the hands of listeners. The FCC has replied by offering this converter, that is capable of converting an FM receiver geared to the present 42-50 megacycle band where FM is now located, so that it can receive the 84-102

megacycle band to which the FCC plans to move FM.

Any radio amateur or handyman can build one of these FM converters, which is about the size of a cigar box, at a total cost of \$8.85 for parts that are now available in radio stores. Commercial ready-built converters will also be available for about \$11. No special knowledge is needed to install one of these converters. The converter in no way affects the fidelity of tone and the quality of reproduction of sound in the FM receiver.

It is believed that FM broadcasters may take steps to make these converters available to their listening audience at cost in the event that FM is shifted.

Science News Letter, March 24, 1945

NUTRITION

Civilians Drinking More Milk Since the War

➤ CIVILIANS have been drinking more milk and eating more meat since the war. They are now drinking between 20% and 25% more milk than they drank in the prewar days, according to the War Food Administration. During the first three months of 1944, the average American was eating meat at the average annual rate of 158 pounds, as compared to 126 pounds each year in the late thirties.

Science News Letter, March 24, 1945