



CRADLE-SONG—Seedlings of new potato hybrids are started and carefully tended in this Department of Agriculture greenhouse.

qualities to recommend it, and is resistant to other diseases besides blight.

Still the breeders are not satisfied. Potatoes that appear to be even better than Katahdin are being developed. One, a New York State variety named Empire, has already been released. Others are still known only as serial numbers in the breeders' books. Each adds something to quality in the pot, and each promises greater resistance to fungi, viruses and other potato plagues.

After a hundred years, the "dread potato disease" of the famine days seems to be on the way out.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1946

ENGINEERING

Engine Ignition System Needs No Spark Plugs

► NO SPARK plugs are needed in a method of igniting airplane and other internal combustion engines in a method developed by German engineers.

The method, known as the "ring-process", was designed to eliminate spark plug fouling and ignition difficulties in aircraft at high altitudes.

Ignition is effected by spraying a liquid ether into the combustion chamber at the time of the compression stroke. The liquid may be budadiol diethyl or diethyl glycol ether. It ignites at the temperature of the cylinder and thus sets off the com-

bustible charge.

This process is one of those secured in Germany by American scientists. It is fully described in a report now available from the Office of the Publication Board, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1946

GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Association Buys Site for Headquarters

► A CITY BLOCK in downtown Washington has been purchased by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, general organization of scientists, as the site for its national headquarters.

Bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, N Street and 15th Street, the triangular area just off Scott Circle now contains four buildings, one of which houses the National Air Transport Association. It is understood that a new building is planned for the site.

At present the AAAS has offices in the Smithsonian Institution building and at American University.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1946

The simple process of spraying the flower clusters of *tomato plants* with a chemical solution containing a hormone results in tomatoes that are larger and contain more meat; also the yield is larger and the plants mature earlier.



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