

appear and their leaves wither and decay, the plants themselves are very much alive in underground root and rhizome. Even while we are reciting elegies over their supposed graves, the flowers are preparing, in hidden beginnings of leaf and bud, for next season's growth and blossoming.

As a matter of fact, we all know this, and in the spring we make use of our knowledge when we celebrate the resurrection-feast of Easter. Not only to the Christian religion but to most pagan ones as well, flowers have always been foremost symbols of belief in immortality, because so many of them actually are physically immortal. Our perennial talk about their dying in autumn is just another instance of the extraordinary capacity of the human mind to entertain two mutually contradictory ideas at the same time.

Even the overground plant parts that do wither and decay are not lost to the cycle of life. Fed upon by the complex hordes of lower organisms in the soil, they presently become part of the soil itself, enriching it and enabling it to sustain coming generations of plant life.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1946

CHEMISTRY

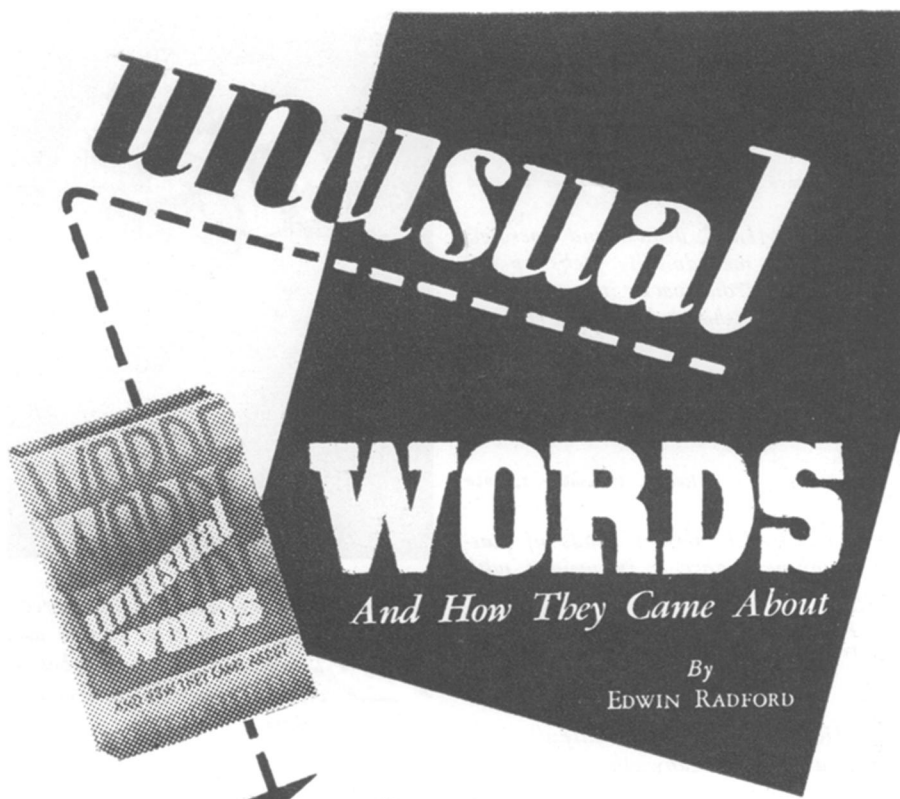
New Chemical Kills Nematodes, Soil Pests

➤ A NEW CHEMICAL for killing nematodes, which are plant-destroying lower worms that infest many soils,

is known as 1,1-dichloropropene-2. On this, patent 2,411,566 has been granted to Dr. T. W. Evans of Oakland, Calif., a Shell Development Company chemist.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1946

Diplomas in Roman days were not school awards but letters of recommendation given to travelers visiting the provinces; the letters were folded double, hence the name.



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