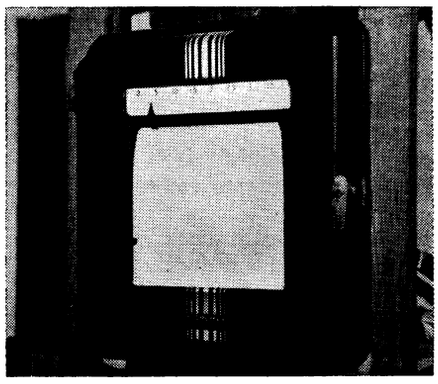
Do You Know?

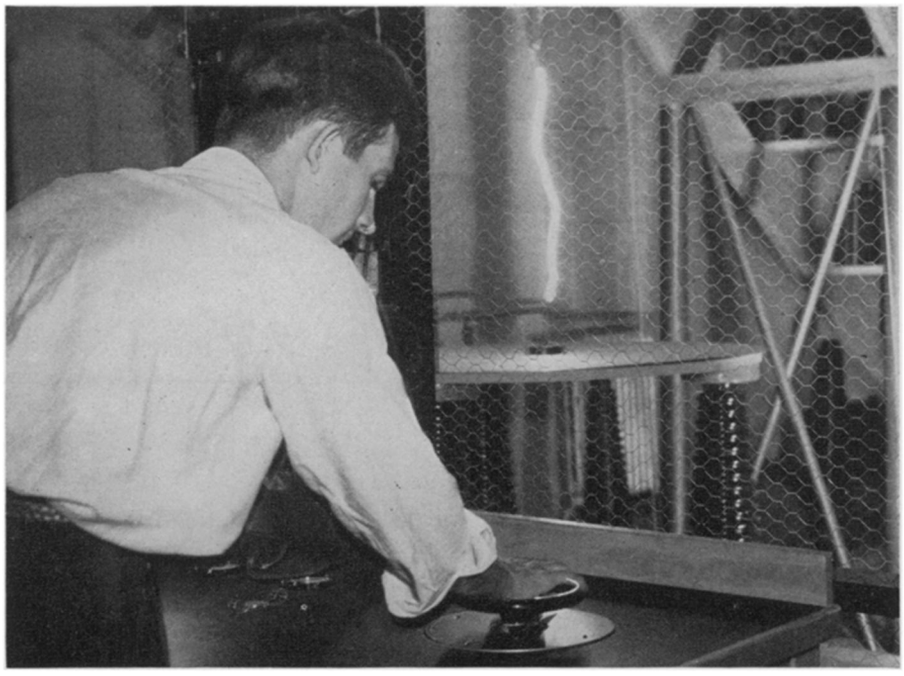
By forcing certain fungicides under pressure into wood, *lumber* may be protected for many years from decay.

One-dollar federal *"duck stamps"*, which all waterfowl hunters over 16 are required to have in addition to state hunting licenses, yielded the U. S. government over $1,725,000 in 1946.

The real reason why *oysters* should not be eaten during the May-to-September season is that this is their spawning time, and summer oyster-fishing endangers future supplies.

Cheap *oxygen*, a matter of much concern in the chemical and other industries, was made in Germany by the fractional distillation of liquid air at extremely low temperatures.





LAB LIGHTNING—Students in the College of Engineering at Duke University make laboratory lightning, replete with claps of thunder. The student operating the one-half-million-volt generator is protected from stray charges by the wire screen.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Army, Navy "Poles Apart"

See Front Cover

➤ WHILE RIVAL plans for unification of our armed forces are still under hot debate in various quarters, huge forces from the Army and Navy are literally poles apart.

The Navy's big winter maneuver is the so-called Byrd Expedition, a full-fledged task force now opening up new lands in the Antarctic reaches of the Southern polar continent.

Meanwhile, the Army is studying military operations in cold weather with three task forces sent out in the opposite direction from Admiral Byrd's Little America. Army Task Force "Frigid" is battling the cold at Fairbanks, Alaska; Task Force "Williwaw" is in the Aleutian Islands; and a third cold-weather party, Task Force "Frost," is operating out of Camp McCoy, Wis. The cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER shows the snow-capped mountains of the wet-cold Williwaw area in a U. S. Army Signal Corps photograph.

Actually, the Army and Navy are not so far apart. Both services are conducting determined tests to see how men and equipment stand up under cold. The Army has representatives with the Navy Force in the Antarctic, and Navy ships last year made at least two unprecedented thrusts in the cold northern waters of the Atlantic.

Unified or apart, the Army and Navy are making up for lost time—lost in winning World War II. There were operations in the snow for Army troops at Ardennes and in the Aleutians, and Navy ships and sailors braved some cold weather in the north Atlantic. But most of World War II was fought in temperate or even tropical climates.

Both services are acutely aware of the need for experience and equipment for operating in cold weather. Armed forces in an atomic age must be prepared to operate in any climate, military leaders believe.

Most sensational aspect of the cold weather operations is the discovery of new, unknown lands in the Antarctic by the Navy Task Force. Yet the Navy's primary purpose is that of the Army in Alaska and elsewhere in the North: training men and testing equipment.

These task forces, in some of the coldest weather on the face of the earth, are helping give the U. S. an all-weather Army and Navy.

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