

some extent even behind, so it is able to spot danger approaching from almost any point. It interprets any movement of any object in its neighborhood as hostile, and takes off immediately.

This very wide field of vision is what makes flies have such a preference for roosting on the ceiling, on projecting wall and door-jamb edges, and especially on hanging strings and wires. From such vantage-points it can see in all direc-

tions. Also, it has a choice of flight in all directions if anything threatens it.

Knowing this tactical choice of the fly enables us to put DDT on just the places where the fly is most likely to settle.

Science News Letter, June 21, 1947

MEDICINE

Blood and Plasma To Be Available to All Soon

► BLOOD AND PLASMA which saved the lives of thousands of American fighting men in World War II may be available to all Americans anywhere in the country without charge within three to five years.

Chairman Basil O'Connor of the American Red Cross announced the National Blood Program at the opening of the Red Cross convention in Cleveland.

Explaining how modern medicine and surgery use blood in the treatment and prevention of disease as well as in the front lines of war, Chairman O'Connor said his group's program has the support of medical and health leaders.

The Red Cross will continue its wartime work in collecting blood donations. Within three to five years, the program could make blood and plasma available throughout the country, Mr. O'Connor predicted.

Science News Letter, June 21, 1947

AERONAUTICS

Two Small Planes Used To Make One Big One

► MAKING a big plane out of two small ones, plus a stub-winged glider, is the interesting invention of a former member of the Air Transport Command, O. A. Buettner of Pittsburgh, on which U. S. patent 2,421,742 has been granted. Rights are assigned royalty-free to the government.

Recesses are sunk into the upper surfaces of the glider's truncated wings. One wing of each of two fighter planes is latched into these recesses, linking all three together as one large craft. The glider can be used for transporting troops or supplies, or it can be made into a huge fuel reservoir, enabling fighters to accompany bombers on long raids, so that they can go into action with their own tanks full after jettisoning the emptied glider.

Science News Letter, June 21, 1947

CARTOGRAPHY

Map Measuring Distances And Areas in Terms of U. S.

► HOW FAR is it from Omsk to Tomsk? Are the Urals longer or shorter than the Alleghenies? How big is Baluchistan? Questions like these can be answered in terms of U. S. A. distances and areas by means of a new globe on which Homer V. Johannsen of Chicago has received patent 2,422,101. Along with the globe, mounted on a curved rod, is a map of the United States on the same scale and degree of curvature. It can be superposed on any part of the globe for comparison purposes.

Science News Letter, June 21, 1947

MEDICINE

Multiple Sclerosis Produced in Monkeys

► PATIENTS suffering from the "brutal" and always fatal disease, multiple sclerosis, are getting an answer to their plea, "Why doesn't someone do something about this disease?"

Someone has done something. Dr. Elvin A. Kabat and associates at Columbia University and the Neurological Institute in New York have found a way to produce the disease in monkeys and a clue to the cause of the disorder.

To help them push their research further, with the ultimate aim of finding a cure or preventive or both, the Association for Advancement of Research on Multiple Sclerosis has just made its first grant of \$64,350.

The Columbia doctors found they could produce the disease in monkeys by injecting a bit of the animal's own brain tissue into their bodies. This has led to the theory that in human patients accidents or germ diseases might cause a tiny bit of the brain tissue to be dislodged and start travelling through the body in the blood stream.

When this happens, if it happens, the body would react to it as it does to any foreign protein substance. Familiar examples of reaction to minute amounts of foreign protein are the allergies such as hives, hayfever and migraine headaches. Multiple sclerosis is believed, on the basis of the monkey experiments, to be the result of such a reaction, which doctors term the antibody-antigen reaction.

Science News Letter, June 21, 1947

HOW TO GET RID OF FLIES

DDT, best present weapon against flies, can be used to advantage in two different ways, for ordinary indoor applications:

Use the handy aerosol mist bomb, which contains pyrethrum as well as DDT, for quick knockdown and sure kill of flies in a room. Shut windows and doors, open the discharge valve, and swish the spray around for a few seconds. Then leave the room and keep the door shut for about half an hour.

Use a 5% solution of DDT in odorless kerosene to spray on ceilings, upper parts of walls, and other roosting-places of flies. Brush it on screen doors and window screens, frames and all. This leaves an invisibly fine deposit of DDT crystals, which clings to flies' feet when they walk on it. In an hour or less they become paralyzed and die.

You can buy this 5% spray ready mixed, or you get a concentrated solution of DDT in xylene, for dilution to 5% on your own workbench. When using these sprays, be careful to extinguish all open lights and fires beforehand, and above all, don't smoke. Mists and vapors of kerosene are inflammable.

Spray the outside of the house around doors and other openings where flies try to get in. Spray the dog kennel, chicken house and any other outbuildings where flies gather. These residual sprays remain capable of killing flies for as much as five or six months after application.