

BIOCHEMISTRY

Ethyl Alcohol Antidote For Methanol Poisoning

➤ ETHYL alcohol acts as a very effective antidote to methanol, or wood alcohol, Dr. Oluf Roe of the Rikshospital, Oslo, Norway, declares in a report to the *QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF STUDIES OF ALCOHOL* (March).

The ethyl alcohol should be given as a supplementary treatment after the acidosis in wood alcohol poisoning has been treated with bicarbonate, he emphasizes. Used in this way, it will prevent the recurrence of the acidosis.

It is particularly useful, Dr. Roe states, in cases when the wood alcohol poisoning victims must be transported some distance before the bicarbonate treatment can be given. In such cases, he declares, the eyesight or lives of patients could be saved by the ethyl alcohol treatment.

Science News Letter, April 8, 1950

**Words in Science—
HYDROLOGY-HYDROGRAPHY**

➤ HYDROLOGY is the science or study of water. Its basis is the hydrologic cycle, the perpetual circuit which water makes from the oceans into the atmosphere through evaporation, from the air onto the land as precipitation, and from the land back to the ocean by underground structures, streams, lakes and rivers.

Hydrography is the art of describing the seas, lakes, rivers and other waters by accurate determination of the contours of the bottom of a body of water, its depth, the positions of channels and shoals. It is a branch of surveying which results in the charts navigators use.

The U. S. Geological Survey uses the two terms in a special sense: hydrology with reference to underground waters, hydrography with reference to surface waters.

Science News Letter, April 8, 1950

AGRICULTURE

Crush Hay in Field for Faster Drying and Storage

➤ WHEN haying time rolls around, farmers of the future may give their crop the big squeeze. Crushed hay, drying faster, can be gotten into the barn the same day it is cut, two agricultural engineers of Canada's Experimental Farms Service report.

Tests were run with a novel farm implement which picks up new-mown hay, sends it between two power-driven steel rollers, and strews it back on the field.

The crushed hay, cut at 8:30 in the morning, was ready for storage by evening, J. W. White and W. Karbfleisch write in the journal, *SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE*. It

took at least two days for uncrushed hay from the same fields to dry sufficiently to be stored.

Means of suitably drying forage crops is a major problem in farm operation when farmers must keep an eye cocked for thunderstorms. Too much rain can ruin hay after it is cut. But it has to be left in the fields until it dries.

Crushed hay will be just as good for the cows, the engineers say. In 1948, experiments at Pennsylvania State College showed no significant change in the feeding value of hay that had been crushed.

Science News Letter, April 8, 1950

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