

G-STRING OF TOMORROW—Dr. Georg Goubau, of the Signal Corps engineering laboratory, is shown with the wire, the G-string, which promises to supplement the coaxial cable in bringing television to every American home.

end gathers in those within the area of its aperture.

Signal Corps officers have pointed out that, although this invention will be of civilian use, it will be of even more importance in the armed services, particularly in radar. It may make practical, they said, the development of a videophone. By this, two persons could hold a long-distance telephone conversation, "both parties seeing each other."

"The new Signal Corps line could carry a hundred such video-phone conversations simultaneously on a single wire," they stated, "compared with the ability of today's single coaxial cable to carry only one."

8,500 Channel Miles

Even without the G-string, the television network of the United States is rapidly expanding. Some 8,500 channel miles now inter-connect 25 cities having 50 television broadcasting stations, according to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

The overall coaxial network was extended over another 1,100 miles of route during the past year, bringing the total to 7,600 miles. Radio relay facilities were also completed over a half dozen or more short lines, and relay facilities are under construction by the company that will connect New York with Chicago, Des Moines and Omaha.

Coaxial cables now in use carry from one to four pairs of copper tubes, within each

of which is a wire insulated from the tube by disks. Each are made to carry up to 600 telephone circuits. With three pairs in use, a cable can carry 1,800 simultaneous conversations.

Science News Letter, June 3, 1950

MEDICINE

Sailors' Health Menace: Dust from Moths' Wings

➤ A HEALTH menace to sailors is reported from Norway to the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (May 6).

Caripito itch is the name of it and it is caused by hairs from the wings and abdomens of moths belonging to the family *Saturniidae*, genus *Hylesia*.

The disease gets its name from Caripito, a harbor on the San Juan River in Venezuela. News of it reached Dr. J. Boe of the City Hospital of Bergen, Norway, when he received the following radiogram from the captain of a Norwegian 16,000-ton tanker in the Atlantic:

"If possible, telegraph medical advice for so-called Caripito itch. Cause: dust from the wings of moths. The whole crew attacked. The rash reminiscent of primula (primrose) flower. Violent itching. No fever. Have given remedies for itch, but result negative."

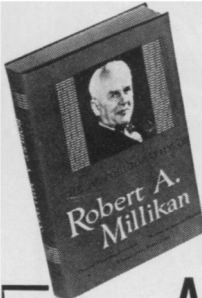
Dr. Boe had never heard of this condition and could find nothing about it in medical textbooks or from consulting skin specialists.

He recommended ephedrine tablets and frequent washing with weak solution of ammonia. Two days later the captain reported that his patients were getting well.

Later the captain wrote that 41 of the crew of 44 had suffered Caripito itch. He said he had visited the harbor before without this mishap, but that the harbor master had warned him about it.

Dr. F. M. Urdaneta of Caripito reports that seamen on tankers coming from this port, which has been open since 1935, are subject to the complaint and that it is the hairs of the moth wings and abdomens which cause the trouble.

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