



**MAGIC CRYSTAL**—From such protein-yielding sources as wheat spikes come the monosodium glutamate crystals which serve as the cook's fairy wand. The taste enhancing crystal is more than 99% pure.

a period of five to six days. The crystals of monosodium glutamate are then spray-washed and dried, after which they are ready for packaging.

The best flavor in food is one which appeals simultaneously to all of our flavor-detecting senses, i.e., odor, taste and feeling. An aroma is needed to make known the presence of the food, taste to entertain the tongue, and finally a pleasant combination of texture and tang to make us feel that the food is at its best in all ways.

If any of these sensory elements is missing the food is flat and uninteresting. It is the function of taste enhancers to supply the missing element or to heighten the effect of the elements already present. Monosodium glutamate does just this, yet does not have any taste itself.

To obtain for yourself a sample of monosodium glutamate as well as a new sweetening agent, sodium sucaryl, just introduced on the market and samples of other seasonings, write for the Taste Enhancers Unit of THINGS of science. Send 50 cents to Science Service, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. The supply of this unit is limited.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1950

#### MEDICINE

### Inferior Pancreas Main Cause of Diabetes

► THE main cause of diabetes is an inferior pancreas, with the inferiority of this organ being hereditary, Dr. Russell M. Wilder of the Mayo Clinic stated at the meeting of the American Medical Association in San Francisco.

"There is little evidence to support the view that stress imposed by hypophysis (pituitary gland), the adrenals or the thyroid accounts for the development of the clinical entity diabetes mellitus," Dr. Wilder said. "The normal healthy pancreas possesses a capacity which is adequate to meet demands for insulin created by all degrees of endocrine overfunction encountered clinically.

"Temporary failure occurs in many instances with resulting hyperglycemia (excess sugar in blood). However, from the fact that the diabetic state so provoked disappears when the hyperfunction of the insulin opponents is corrected, the inference is clear that the overfunction of the pancreatic beta cells has not led to their destruction. Exceptions may occur but they are most uncommon.

"On the other hand, overweight or the excessive consumption of food which leads to it, imposes a demand for insulin which not only exceeds the normal demand but is of long duration, extending usually over many years and thus may lead to beta cell destruction. However, only a small proportion of persons who are grossly overweight develop diabetes.

"Therefore, in those cases in which diabetes is provoked by overweight we can logically assume that the pancreas genetically was possessed of less capacity than normal from the outset.

"Furthermore, in very many instances of diabetes, including almost all cases of diabetes in childhood, we find no grounds for assuming the existence of a pancreatic overstrain of any kind. The causation of these cases must therefore rest entirely on inferiority, anatomic or functional, of the pancreatic beta cells. Diabetes in such persons follows stresses such as those imposed by growth, puberty, pregnancy, infectious disease, etc., the stresses to which all persons are exposed."

Dr. Wilder said the theory of a single

origin of diabetes receives support from studies of heredity in this disease.

"Diabetes behaves in heredity as if it were transmitted by a single gene (a hereditary factor which carries a transmissible character)," he said.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1950

#### PHYSICS

### Better Hearing for Music And Lectures in Same Hall

► SMALL communities can now have halls that can be used either for lectures or for musical performances with good hearing for both. And this even when the seats are the hard-to-sit-on but easily moved kind.

This promise of relief from bad acoustics in community-type halls is made by Dr. Paavo Arni of the Finnish Broadcasting Company in Helsinki. He describes a simple, inexpensive arrangement to accomplish this improved hearing in the JOURNAL OF THE ACOUSTICAL SOCIETY (June 6).

As much wall space as necessary is covered with a specially built adjustable absorbing unit. The absorbing unit, when open, exposes a layer of rockwool covered with a sheet of thin perforated plywood. Behind the rockwool there is a plywood sheet. This combination of materials plus air absorbs most of the usable sound spectrum.

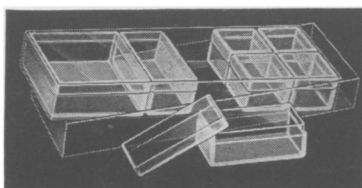
The absorbing unit can be rotated on hinges into a closed position, the absorbing surface disappearing. The reverse side of the absorbing unit, a hard glossy painted surface, is then exposed.

These units are placed one above another in two rows. The upper ones are all connected together with a steel rail; the lower ones may be individually connected to the corresponding units in the upper row. In this way all the variations of sound absorption desired may be obtained.

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### TRANSPARENT BOXES

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