

FARM WARRIOR—A special gas mask, protective clothing and rubber gloves are necessary when spraying with parathion in a greenhouse. If too much of this insecticide is breathed or absorbed through the skin, it can have the same effect as the war-developed nerve gases.

of these chemicals upon the human body as exactly similar to that of the super-secret "nerve gases."

"It seems unlikely today," Col. Wood wrote, "that chemical agents offer our potential enemies effective weapons for long-range attack . . . with the possible exception of the nerve gases." Nerve gases, he said, might well be used in a future war.

U. S. scientists found the formulas for the nerve gases and also for the organic phosphate insecticides after the Germans surrendered. Since then, official U. S. research on nerve gases and possible protection against them has been screened by an impenetrable shield stamped "Classified," "Confidential" and "Secret" and guarded by "No comment." The same is true for research into ways of protecting people against bacteriological and radiological warfare, the twin bugaboos which stand beside the hydrogen bomb in this atomic age.



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The Agriculture Department's program of gas mask research has been entirely independent of military requirements, officials are quick to point out.

But in today's paradoxical world, where the lines between gas warfare and battling insect pests has become very thin, the American farmer needs—and is getting protection very similar to that of the U. S. soldier on the battlefield.

Science News Letter, December 9, 1950

MEDICINE

Sweet Aspirin Gives Fast Pain Relief

TESTS showing that a sweet aspirin relieves pain faster than plain aspirin or two other aspirin preparations are reported by Dr. Murray M. Hoffman, oral surgeon, in the Illinois Dental Journal. (October.)

Marketed under the trade name, Theryl, the sweet aspirin is a combination of aspirin and benzosulfimide, or saccharin, the synthetic sweetening substance. The new drug comes in tablets which are placed under the tongue instead of being swal lowed.

Pain began to be relieved in from onehalf to five minutes with the new drug, compared to 14 minutes, the fastest for any of the three others Dr. Hoffman tried. Toothaches and neuralgias (not tic douloureux) and the pain after having teeth pulled and in cases of dry sockets were among the ones Dr. Hoffman reported relieved quickly by the new drug. Similar good results with the drug in relieving pain after surgical operations have been reported by Dr. Raymond W. McNealy. He points out in a report to the Illinois Medical Society that the results are probably due to the aspirin part of the drug which is absorbed more rapidly as a result of being combined with saccharin.

Because the drug is non-habit forming and can be taken by patients who cannot have fluids by mouth, Dr. McNealy believes it has a wide range of usefulness.

Science News Letter, December 9, 1950

PHYSICS

Atomic Age "Dog Tag" Tells Radiation Dose

A SELF-DEVELOPING "atomic dog tag" for soldiers and civilians has been developed by the Army Signal Corps.

A small metal case containing photographic film and a packet of developing solution, the radiation indicator can be worn around the neck. It measures very slight to fatal doses of radioactivity from an A-bomb attack by discoloration of the film.

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