



Honey Mushroom

➤ MOST OF us are distrustful of mushrooms, calling every fungus that we do not know a "toadstool." As a matter of fact, most of our mistrust is wasted, for there are only a few species of mushroom that are dangerously poisonous, a few more that are "tummyachers," and a good many are inedible because of toughness or ill flavor.

And "toadstool" is not a poison-name, but merely a shape-name. An edible mushroom is an edible toadstool; an inedible or poisonous toadstool is an inedible or poisonous mushroom. Anything with a stalk and cap may properly be called either toadstool or mushroom.

One of the best of these little-known and hence often suspected "toadstools" is the honey mushroom. If you walk in the shady woods you are likely to come upon dense clusters of the honey mushroom, growing about the base of an old stump, or perhaps springing up from the ground, but never very far from a tree, for even here it sends

its white web of feeding threads into the roots underground. That is why foresters do not like it.

The honey mushroom, or honey agaric, as some people call it, is a most aggressive timber parasite, and since it is very abundant and widely distributed, it has considerable economic importance, especially in these days of disappearing forests.

But the mushroom gatherer has another opinion of it. It is, perhaps, not quite up to the mark of the field agaric or the shaggyman or some of the other fungiphile's favorites, but it makes pretty good eating just the same. And it is so easy to get a basketful that one can provide mushrooms for the camp for several days in a few minutes of collecting.

The honey mushroom is easy to identify. It gets its name from the characteristic brown color of its upper surface. The cap is usually further marked with a number of sharply pointed, dark-colored scales near the middle. Underneath, the gills are white, even when the fungus has become old. The stalk is somewhat stringy and not easy to separate from the cap; this marks it off from the deadly Amanitas and from the edible Lepiotas. There is usually a ring about the stalk, though this may fray out and disappear with age; but there is no cup at the base, as in the Amanitas.

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PSYCHIATRY

Work, Play for Health

➤ WORK AND play are good medicine for hundreds of thousands of patients in mental hospitals, Dr. Daniel Dancik, chief of the physical medicine rehabilitation service of the Veterans Administration Hospital at Northport, L. I., declared at the meeting of the American Medical Association in Atlantic City, N. J.

"The radical cure for mental illness has not been found except for those early stages when the process still is wholly reversible," Dr. Dancik said.

The neuropsychiatric patient, he explained, invariably can not work or play.

"Therefore, to teach such a patient how to work and how to play is to teach him how really to adjust," Dr. Dancik said. "This best describes the function of physical medicine in a large neuropsychiatric hospital. Physical medicine must make it possible for the patient to find an outlet for his instinctual urges in work and play.

"These should be properly guided and taught. The activities should be selected for the patient's special needs, interest and capacity and all these activities should be graded and expanded. Idleness is debilitating, especially when for some reason or other it is prolonged. This is especially true for the chronic psychotic."

Properly prescribed activity, he said, releases emotional stresses and strains, de-

On This Week's Cover

➤ WELDING OPERATION on a jet engine at Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation, Hagerstown, Md., yields a picture, shown on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, that resembles one "from out of this world."

INVENTION

Flaming Gases Melt Ice on the Roadway

➤ ICE ON the roadway will be no barrier to motor vehicles equipped with a melting device invented by Jack L. Hamblin, Portsmouth, Ohio, on which he received patent 2,560,221. With it, flaming gases hit the roadbed just ahead of the driving wheels.

Bottled gas, the kind used in many rural homes for cooking and heating, is the fuel employed. The tank holding it is placed in the baggage compartment. Ignition is by electricity from the vehicle's electrical system. Lighting the burners, and control of the flow of gas and the direction of the resulting flames are made by the driver without leaving his seat.

Science News Letter, July 21, 1951

YOUR HAIR

ITS HEALTH, BEAUTY, AND GROWTH

By HERMAN GOODMAN, M.D.

A medical specialist tells you what to do to save and beautify your hair, stimulate healthier hair growth, and deal with many problems, as: Dandruff—gray hair—thinning hair—care of the scalp—baldness—abnormal types of hair—excessive oiliness—brittle dryness—hair falling out—infection—parasites—hair hygiene—glands—diet—hair coloring—and myriad other subjects concerning hair.

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INVENTION

Metals Polished Electrically By Intermittent Currents

➤ BRILLIANT POLISH or high luster is obtained on articles of silver plate, copper or brass by a process using the electrolytic bath which brought Henry Boynton Smith, Wallingford, Conn., patent 2,559,263. Rights are assigned to R. Wallace and Sons Manufacturing Company of the same address.

In this electropolishing method, as the process is called, the inventor has found that a polish or luster of high brilliance is obtained on the surface of silver plate, copper or brass by using a composite electrical voltage made up of direct and alternating current potential applied intermittently.

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