

paper, free upon request to publisher, The College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. How to improve the herd for milk production.

A REVIEW OF THE MYSIDACEA OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM—Walter M. Tattersall—*Smithsonian*, U. S. National Museum Bulletin 201, 292 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. Includes 120 species of these crustaceans, of which 19 are new.

SMITHSONIAN METEOROLOGICAL TABLES—Robert J. List—*Smithsonian*, 6th rev. ed. 527 p., \$4.00. Revised in both scope and contents.

THE SUNNYSIDE, ROSS BASIN, AND BONITA FAULT SYSTEMS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED ORE DEPOSITS, SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO—W. S. Burbank—*Colorado Scientific Society*, Proceedings, Vol. 15, No. 7, 21 p., illus., paper, \$1.00.

TWELVE COWS—AND WE'RE IN CLOVER: The Story of a Man Who Bought a Farm—George Rehm—*Morrow*, 255 p., \$3.00. A book for city-dwellers who dream of a future life on the farm.

THE UNITED NATIONS AND YOU—United States National Commission for Unesco—*Govt. Printing Office*, Dept. of State Publication 4289, 49 p., illus., paper, 30 cents. A contribution to a better understanding of the United Nations and its relationship to you.

WINTER COVERCROPS—B. A. Madson—*California Agricultural Extension Service*, Circular 174, 24 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, The College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. The use of plants to keep the soil productive.

Science News Letter, November 3, 1951

#### INVENTION

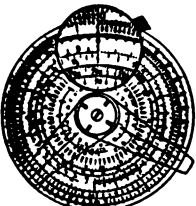
### High Temperature Strength For Magnesium Alloy

► MANY APPLICATIONS for the metal magnesium are promised with a new alloy which unlike some others has tensile strength at elevated temperatures. The metals used with the magnesium are little known to most people, being what chemists call rare earth metals.

Inventor of this alloy is Thomas E. Leontis, Midland, Mich. He received patent 2,569,477. Rights are assigned to Dow Chemical Company, also of Midland.

Science News Letter, October 13, 1951

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#### PUBLIC HEALTH

## Heat Peril from A-Bomb

► CIVIL DEFENSE planning should take into account the dangers of heat and carbon monoxide poisoning which will come if we are attacked by atom bombs, Dr. Cortez F. Enloe, Jr., of New York, warns in a report in the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* (Oct. 27).

Dr. Enloe was chief of the medical science branch, U. S. Strategic Bombing Survey, which studied the effects of bombing on German health and medical care at the end of World War II. He was recently awarded the Legion of Merit for his work in this capacity.

The effects of high explosive and fire-bomb raids on individuals in German cities was not much different from the effects of the atom bombs on individuals in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, excluding the radiation effects. The radiation effects accounted for about one-fifth of the casualties in the Japanese cities.

In a high explosive raid, the type carried out on European cities and the type to which this country is apparently immune, mechanical injuries would outnumber deaths. But in an atomic bomb attack, Dr. Enloe states, "it is expected that the effects of heat and carbon monoxide would cause more deaths than injuries."

By heat deaths is meant death from the high temperatures and not from burns.

Heat stroke, he points out, caused the death of many Germans in rooms from which they could have escaped.

#### OPTICS

### World-Wide Standards Set For Signal Light Colors

► IF YOU have difficulty because you confuse two of the colors of signal lights, your troubles will be lightened in the future.

World-wide standards have now been set for signal lights of all kinds—aircraft, railroad, automobile and ocean liner—Dr. Francis C. Breckenridge of the National Bureau of Standards told the Optical Society of America meeting in Chicago. Specifications for red, yellow, green, blue and white signal lights have been set.

But the changes that will be made because of this standardization, he said, will be so gradual that the user "will hardly be aware of any change in the signal colors."

The standards for all signal lights were worked out by a special committee of the International Commission on Illumination. Those for aviation signals have already been adopted by ICAO, the International Civil Aviation Organization. This country will find "little difficulty" in adapting our lights to agree with the new definitions, Dr. Breckenridge predicted.

Science News Letter, November 3, 1951

Temperatures in Hamburg, during one of the fire raids, according to police estimates, went as high as 1,472 degrees Fahrenheit in the burning city blocks. The temperature of boiling water is 212 degrees Fahrenheit, that of the normal human body 98.6 degrees.

In this same city, it is estimated that 70% of all casualties not resulting from mechanical injury or burns were caused by carbon monoxide gas, Dr. Enloe states.

"Carbon monoxide casualties may always be expected in flaming buildings where exits have been blocked by rubble, indicating the imperative need for adequate exits," he warns. "One cannot glibly endorse the general attitude that the basement of every dwelling affords relative safety. It may afford safety from blast, but if the building catches fire, and, as we have said, fire is the main cause of atomic bomb damage, the cellar becomes but a tomb."

Some persons may be expected to "drown in dust" because of dust blockage of their noses and throats in the raid.

Drowning in water is a danger in shelters and basements if water mains are broken and buildings collapse.

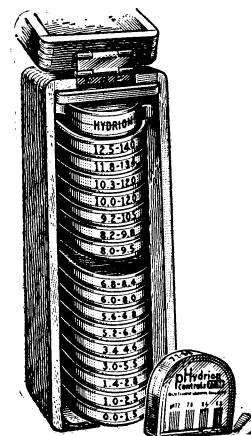
Establishment of psychiatric first-aid stations, Dr. Enloe declares, is sound in theory "but experience has shown that it is a waste of time." Contrary to expectation, air attacks on the civilian population do not increase the amount of psychiatric disorders.

Science News Letter, November 3, 1951

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