

AERONAUTICS

America To Get Jetliners

► JET-PROPELLED airliners on American airways may be expected in the relatively near future, now that the U. S. Air Force has withdrawn its former objections.

But the first of the transports with turbo-jet power may be purchased in England. American jetliners are still on the drafting board while British transports of the type are in the air.

However, the jetliners to be purchased by American air transport companies will not be the British de Havilland Comet now in regular service between London and Johannesburg, South Africa. Instead, they will be the Comet II, a faster and larger plane than the Comet I. The new model will be in service in about two years. A still larger and faster airplane, the Comet III, is promised for 1956.

The U. S. Air Force objection to civilian jet propulsion was based on fear that the development of civil jet airliners at present might interfere with military aircraft production. Its objections were presented by letter to a congressional committee considering a bill to give federal financial aid to airplane manufacturers to help them construct jetliners.

The Air Force now has reversed its stand of less than a month ago and expressed itself in favor of the construction of civilian jet-propelled airliners.

Approximately four-fifths of the commercial airplanes in use in the world today are American-built. But England has assumed leadership in the production of jetliners. Canada also has one jetliner that already has made many flights. The present Comet I is said not to appeal to American aircraft producers because of its low passenger capacity and its operating cost.

Comet II will have four Rolls Royce jet engines, each with a 6,500-pound thrust, or

30% more than the present Comet and will have greater carrying capacity. Comet III will have 7,500-pound-thrust engines. It will be able to fly at about 550 miles an hour and will have capacity for 55 passengers.

Science News Letter, June 21, 1952

PUBLIC HEALTH

States Join to Fight Rabies in Wild Animals

► RABIES IN wild animals, particularly foxes and skunks, has increased to such an extent in the District of Columbia and 11 states of the south Middle Atlantic region that an Eastern Regional Rabies Council has been established to stop the threat to humans, cattle and pets such as dogs, cats and horses.

States involved are: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Mutual rabies control programs at the state level and prompt reporting of rabies cases in all animals are among measures the new council will plan for quick action. The U. S. Public Health Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U. S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry are cooperating.

Science News Letter, June 21, 1952

NUTRITION

X-Ray Sterilized Food Declared Dangerous

► BE ON guard against foods that have been sterilized with X-rays, such as fatty meats, milk, butter, salad oils, certain grains and seeds.

So warns Dr. James F. Mead, chief of the biochemistry division of the Atomic Energy Project at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine.

Recent research by Dr. Mead and his associates has shown that X-irradiation has a damaging effect on the fatty acids found in many food substances.

A chain of free radicals is released when such food is irradiated, thus destroying not only essential fatty acids and vitamins, but acting on other substances present to produce poisonous peroxides.

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