



**MAKING LOCKFOAM RADOMES**—Thick molasses-like Lockfoam is being poured into pre-heated dies, after which it is cured for six hours at 200 degrees Fahrenheit, then cooled for two. The radomes, when trimmed, radar-checked and painted, become part of Lockheed F-94C Starfires.

#### MEDICINE

## Strep. Infections High

► IF YOU and your friends think the colds you have been having this winter seem worse and different than usual, it may be that you have been having streptococcus infections. This is particularly likely to be the case if there was a bad sore throat with the cold.

Streptococcus infections and "strep. sore throat" as we used to call it seem to have gone out of fashion. Nowadays it is fashionable to have a virus infection.

But two or three times the usual number of cases of streptococcal infections are being reported each week to the U.S. Public Health Service. These infections, including the ones that are classified as scarlet fever, are milder than those reported a decade or so ago. Probably many of the milder ones go unreported and are considered by the victims as unusually bad colds.

It would be hard even for a doctor to tell the difference unless he had laboratory tests made. Even the tests might not be too helpful because there might be other germs besides streptococci showing up in material swabbed from the throat.

Even these mild strep. infections, however, can have serious consequences. In one outbreak of several hundred cases this winter, a score or more of the patients de-

veloped rheumatic fever and some others got the kidney disease, nephritis.

Enlarged glands and ear infections, especially in children, are other complications that may follow strep. infections.

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#### MEDICINE

## Baby's Heart Beats Triple Usual Rate

► THE CASE of a baby whose heart beat at the rate of 310 to 313 beats per minute was reported by Dr. James Alexander Lyon of Washington, at the meeting of the Pan American Medical Association. The association met in a "cruise congress" aboard the S.S. Nieuw Amsterdam.

The normal rate of heart beat in a newborn baby is about 130. In adults the heart rate is about 70 to 80 beats per minute.

The baby Dr. Lyon reported on was four and one-half weeks old. The very rapid heart rate was recorded by electrocardiograph at the onset of the streptococcal meningitis which killed the baby.

Dr. Lyon found 16 cases in medical records of heart beats of about 300 per minute.

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#### INVENTION

## New Alarm Wakens Sleeping Driver

► FALLING ASLEEP at the wheel can be prevented with an alarm patented recently.

If the driver falls asleep or into what the inventor of the alarm calls an "auto-hypnotic reverie," a "very loud as well as unpleasant" horn is set off, thus bringing the driver to his senses almost immediately.

"Once this has occurred," John A. Mathis, Pinckneyville, Ill., the inventor, says, "a driver if he is careful will, in the interest of his own safety as well as the safety of others, bring his vehicle to a stop off the road, shut off the warning system . . . and then take at least a short nap before attempting to drive farther."

The alarm is a two-stop device. Periodically a light way to the right on the dashboard flashes on. If the driver does not hit a switch on his steering wheel within 20 or 30 seconds, the horn goes off.

Mr. Mathis says that, in a state of auto-hypnotic reverie, one loses his peripheral vision, or the ability to see things out of the corner of the eye while looking straight ahead. Thus, in his reverie the driver would not notice the light flashing on and the horn would go off.

The invention can be adapted to planes and locomotives. In these cases a third stage could be added, Mr. Mathis suggests. If there is no response to the horn, the pilot of the plane might automatically be ejected, or the locomotive brought to a halt.

Patent number of the alarm is 2,625,594.

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#### WILDLIFE

## Waterfowl Winter Safely on S. C. Refuge

► WHILE THE guns of duck hunters resound along the greater part of the Atlantic seaboard, large concentrations of waterfowl are safely wintering on the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, under the protection of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This haven for wildlife is located about 20 miles northeast of Charleston, S. C. Bulls Island, situated in the refuge, is a 5,000-acre semi-tropical wonderland for ornithological studies.

Fresh water ponds have been constructed on the island, and resulting growths of banana water lily, widgeon grass, sago pond weed and wild rice attract the migrating waterfowl.

An abundance of live oaks, heavily festooned with epiphytic Spanish moss, and magnolia, cabbage palm and pine are the principal flora of the island.

Ornithologists have recorded about 245 species of bird life on the island. But, mysteriously, the blue jay, Carolina chickadee, loggerhead shrike, tufted titmouse and the bobwhite quail—all common Carolina birds—do not occur on the island.

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