



1964 TV SCREEN—As visualized by General Electric engineers, the TV screen of the future will be thin enough to hang like a picture on the wall or mounted in a table model as shown in this dummy receiver. The concept stems from development work on miniature electronic components and radar displays. Pictured with his hand on the TV screen is Dr. L. T. DeVore, manager of the Electronics Laboratory, Syracuse, N. Y.

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Surgery for Cataracts

► SENILE CATARACTS, the kind that afflict old people, are on the increase because more people are living into old age. However, there is no treatment or cure for such cataracts except by an operation.

Do not be misled into thinking that drops or any other kind of non-surgical treatment will cure a cataract. They not only will fail to cure the cataract but may cause other potentially blinding diseases.

Not every person with a cataract needs to have it removed. Whether or not to remove it depends on how much it is cutting down a person's eyesight.

Cataracts are in a sense "normal" in old age, Dr. Robert Dean Mattis of St. Louis University School of Medicine declared at the recent conference of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Our feelings about cataracts, he said, should be like our tolerance of wrinkles, gray hair and numerous other changes which are normal in the healthy old person. Concerning cataracts, he explained:

"It is common knowledge that as the body ages it becomes harder and drier; the bones become brittle, the joints less mobile, and the skin wrinkles. The lens within the eye loses some of its water content; its chemical constituents change, and it becomes less

elastic and less transparent. This is 'normal' in old age as it happens to all of us if we live long enough.

"If this reduction of the transparency of the lens becomes marked enough it begins to interfere with vision. We call the clouding a "cataract," a term derived from the Greek word for veil.

"When this veiling of vision begins to interfere seriously with useful vision we remove it; but if it does not bother the patient we watch it periodically to be sure it will not give trouble."

Science News Letter, August 28, 1954

PHYSICS

New Society To Get At Heart of Atom

► THE SCIENTISTS and engineers who are primarily concerned with the nucleus, or heart of the atom, and atomic energy now have their own professional organization. It is the Society of Nuclear Scientists and Engineers, abbreviated SNSE.

Dr. Urner Liddel heads the organizing committee. First meeting will be next June at State College, Pa.

Science News Letter, August 28, 1954

INVENTION

Rain Deflector for Ventilator Windows

► TO KEEP raindrops from blowing into an automobile, yet still have air circulating in the car when driving in the rain, Joseph E. and Ralph L. Mecey of Burbank, Calif., have devised a "rainwater deflector for vehicle ventilator windows," which has received patent number 2,685,471.

The inventors accomplish the two objectives by attaching a grooved strip, made of any suitable material, to the ventilator at an angle such that when the ventilator window is open, the rainwater is caught and is dumped outside the car door, not spilled inside as it would be without such a guard. The miniature window gutter thus allows adequate ventilation but keeps occupants and interior finishes dry during rainstorms.

Science News Letter, August 28, 1954

GENERAL SCIENCE

Some Draft Inductions Delayed Several Years

► THE DRAFT induction of some young men scheduled for military service may be delayed for several years if the Selective Service calls continue at somewhere near the present level of 23,000 men per month.

This is pointed out in a joint communication from the Engineering Manpower Commission of the Engineers Joint Council, New York, and the Scientific Manpower Commission, Washington. The present pool of 650,000 availables will be increased each year by approximately 600,000.

While Selective Service industrial and agricultural deferments have been reduced over the last two years, there is every indication, the report says, that in the immediate future the Selective Service will be somewhat more liberal in granting occupational deferments than has been the case in the last year.

"This change in emphasis will result in some measure from the growing feeling that each man should serve the nation where he could serve it best," the report says, "whether it be in uniform or some essential civilian occupation."

Science News Letter, August 28, 1954

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