

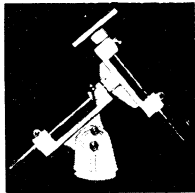
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**CHEMISTRY****Silicon-Olefin Compounds Promising**

► A GENERAL METHOD for combining olefins, derived from petroleum, with silicon to form a whole series of products similar chemically to the silicones is announced in *Nature* (Oct. 13).

Silicon, combined with an organic group and one or more atoms of fluorine, takes part in the reaction in the form of a "free radical," Drs. A. M. Geyer and R. N. Hazeldine of Cambridge University report.

They state that the particular product desired can be controlled easily by regulating the proportions of the chemicals used. Further addition of one of the elements, such as fluorine, can be accomplished as easily by their method.

The possibility of using a modification of the same method for creating similar compounds of other elements is foreseen by the Cambridge chemists.

They mention bismuth, germanium, lead, zinc, phosphorus, arsenic, tin and aluminum as those they are studying with "reasonable certainty" the free radical behavior will resemble that of silicon.

"It is equally clear," the authors state, "that certain of these will be stable only at relatively low temperatures."

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

**GENERAL SCIENCE****Corn Shocks Are Now Disappearing****See Front Cover**

► THE JACK-O-LANTERN is doubly American because the pumpkin is native to this country and the carved face that casts such spooky shadows is characteristically and exclusively American.

The corn shock, as symbolic of Halloween as black cats and pumpkins, is now disappearing. Two of these traditional Halloween symbols are shown in the photograph on the cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

**YOUR SKIN AND ITS CARE**

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**Do You Know?**

Chemicals on an odor reference shelf in a hospital emergency room can aid in rapid identification of *poisons* with characteristic smells.

The *corn* of the future, a scientist says, is a radiation-induced dwarf type with three-foot stalks so heavy with ears that it yields 100 or even 200 bushels to the acre.

*Fish scales* are digestible and scientists are seeking the best ways to make the high protein content of this waste available for animal food.

A *land* reclamation program in Korea aims at converting some 50 bays on the west coast of the country into rich rice lands.

**Questions**

ARCHAEOLOGY—When did King Midas live? p. 263.

ASTRONOMY—What is the brightest object, excepting the moon, in the November sky? p. 266.

MEDICINE—For what development was the 1956 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology awarded? p. 261.

What is myelin? p. 262.

PSYCHOLOGY—What is the relationship between words heard and nearby words? How do late deciders tip the election balance? p. 265.

STATISTICS—How long will the first run on Univac of election predictions take in 1956? p. 263.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Cover, Fremont Davis; p. 259, British Information Services; p. 261, (Catheter) Cardiac Catheterization in Congenital Heart Disease, (Richards and Forssman) United Press Photo; p. 262, National Multiple Sclerosis Society; p. 263, University of Pennsylvania; p. 272, Taylor Instrument Companies.

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