

Do You Know?

A new *autopilot and bombing system* allows the pilot, by pushing a button, to approach his target at tree-top level to evade radar detection, nose up, toss his bomb load up and "over the shoulder," then roll out and escape.

The earliest known *calculating device* is the abacus.

Revolutionary idea in automotive design is a retractable *steel top* which at the touch of a button slides automatically into the car's trunk.

The fierce Norway *rat* has been tamed by damaging a small and supposedly non-essential part of the brain.

More than 8,000,000 new *tin cans* poured into the air-storage section of a wind tunnel act as a radiator, keeping the air temperature nearly constant during a test blow; without the cans, it would drop about 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

Private business flyers averaged only about one fatal *accident* per 15,000,000 miles flown in 1954.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ban on Use of Butter and Oleo Coloring Proposed

► THE FIRST STEPS toward removing four coal-tar colors from the list of certified food colors have been taken by the Food and Drug Administration.

The four colors involved are the Food, Drug and Cosmetic (FD&C) Yellows Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. Only two of these, Nos. 3 and 4, are used extensively for coloring at the present time, in butter, oleomargarine and other food items.

The proposed regulation would delete these colors from the food list, but still allow them to be used in drugs and cosmetics for external application.

None of the colors has caused any injurious effects to humans, the FDA reported, but animal studies show that they could have bad effects if taken in excessive amounts.

Since the law requires that coal-tar colors be "harmless," no matter how much is used, the Food and Drug Administration is required to start proceedings to remove them from the certified list, George P. Larrick, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, said.

Interested parties such as color manufacturers and food processors have until late February under the law in which to file comments on the proposal. Then the FDA will either put the ban in force or set a hearing date for more evidence.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1957

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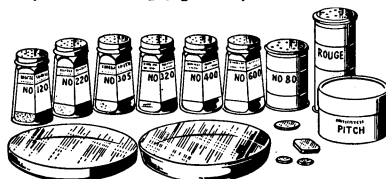


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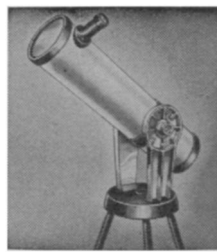


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