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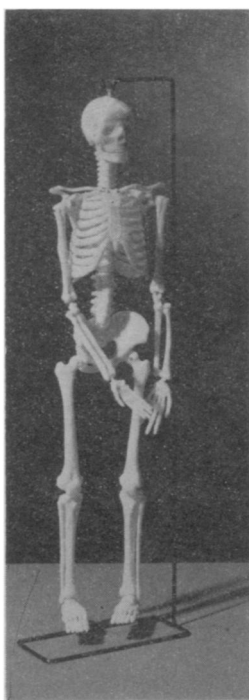
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► THE ODOR of rotten eggs may lead field geologists and laboratory chemists to the discovery of large fields of uranium easier and faster than can be done at present with geiger counters.

A geologist has reported that the odor of hydrogen sulfide gas can be used as a reliable clue to uranium deposits. Mead L. Jensen, assistant professor of geology, Yale University, said the gas has been present in uranium ore samples collected from many western United States locations.

The discovery means accurate, high-speed laboratory techniques can supplement the slow geiger counter method of prospecting for the vital metal. It also means the supply of uranium may be much larger than previously suspected, for hydrogen sulfide has always been associated with petroleum fields.

Prof. Jensen theorized that water, carrying uranium washed out of volcanic ash more than 60,000,000 years ago in the Colorado Plateau, reacted with hydrogen sulfide formed from decaying animal and vegetable matter to produce uranium oxide, which is still there awaiting prospectors.

Science News Letter, March 8, 1958

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