

loosening action on the metal parts of the tank, fuel lines and carburetor, particularly when the float is of cork shel-laced type," he says. "The blend is also markedly corrosive to galvanized parts. The sediment carried down by the alcohol fuel tends to plug up feed lines, filters and jets giving endless difficulty."

Dr. Egloff, as well as a number of his colleagues, hold that if alcoholized gaso-line comes into general distribution it will add to Uncle Sam's troubles in reg-ulating the beverage alcohol traffic. While alcohol will remain blended with gasoline so long as little or no water is present, it can be separated out by the addition of water. It is claimed that bootleggers will make any "gas" tank a source of "alky," leaving the complaisant tank owner still in possession of de-alcoholized but still saleable gasoline.

*Science News Letter, June 17, 1933*

MUSEOLOGY

### Museum Makes Debut As Conference Scene

**L**ONDON'S new Museum of Practical Geology had a strange debut for a museum, June 12.

Halls built for the proud display of gold and other mineral treasures of the British Empire found their first use as a stage for talk about gold and the world resources available in battling a world depression.

Construction of the new museum building was hastened to completion so that the fifteen hundred delegates to the world economic conference might move in. Exhibit halls have been turned into conference rooms, reception rooms, and lounges for the delegates. The great central hall is the formal meeting place for the sessions, with rows of desks installed and a dais where the King of England stood on the opening day to greet the conferees.

The institution which will take over the new building when the conference departs has a history of almost a century back of it. It was established in 1837, through efforts of the founder of Eng-land's Geological Survey, to preserve specimens of ore and metals and gem stones collected by the Survey. A few years later the collection moved into a building erected especially for it, where it has remained until the present.

Its new home is a dignified structure of white stone located between the Science Museum and the Natural His-tory Museum in South Kensington.

*Science News Letter, June 17, 1933*

MEDICINE

## Tannic Acid Bath Features Modern Treatment of Burns

**A** THREE-HOUR bath in tannic acid during which the burns be-come well tanned is a feature of the modern treatment of extensive burns as described by Dr. Donald B Wells of Hartford, Conn., at the meeting of the American Medical Association.

The use of tannic acid relieves the pain sufficiently so that the burned areas can be thoroughly cleaned. In this way infection can be prevented. Infection alone was the cause of the exhausting illness, many of the complications and a majority of the deaths from burns in the old days, in Dr. Wells' opinion.

The person with extensive burns is placed in a large tub of tannic acid solu-tion, according to Dr. Wells' plan of treatment.

"He receives quantities of liquids to drink, in order to balance the loss of water. As soon as his pain is some-

what relieved, several attendants begin to work. For three hours they remove burned tissue as the solution loosens it and clean unburned areas with soap and water.

"By the time the patient is ready to be placed in bed a tan has formed over the burned portions. Then for seventy-two hours warm air is blown on him from an ordinary hair drier, while he is more or less constantly sprayed with tannic acid solution. After this the blow-er is used alone until the tissue has be-come perfectly firm, for only a little perspiration may break it and invite invasion by germs," Dr. Wells ex-plaind.

The method is especially successful in burns from gasoline explosions, ignited clothing and extensive scalds, he said. It can be used in any good hospital.

*Science News Letter, June 17, 1933*

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