

metals that are presenting such a bottleneck in the airplane industry, have much the same role in connection with fireworks. The rockets that you sent up last year, or saw in community displays, bursting to give a brilliant white light, had aluminum powder in them. For military flares magnesium, which is somewhat more expensive but gives a better light, is generally used. Both metals now are hard to get.

Potassium chlorate and potassium perchlorate are two of the most important chemicals used in the pyrotechnic art. They supply the necessary oxygen for rapid burning. Pretty nearly all that is available from the manufacturing chemists is now being employed in the making of government fireworks.

Surprisingly enough, despite the war in China, Chinese firecrackers are still being imported in rather large quantities. Such firecrackers, in bunches, are not made in the United States. However, there is enough of a shortage to make prices, in states where they are still allowed to be sold, considerably higher than in other years.

In the meantime, while defense priorities help to impose a safe-and-sane Fourth on the nation, other efforts toward the same end are continuing. For the fifth year, the American Medical Association has asked hospitals to furnish full data on fireworks injuries.

Largely due to their summaries, it was said in a recent issue of the Association's Journal, "several states have adopted effective anti-fireworks legislation. The number of deaths from this cause has been reduced therefore in 1940 to 8, as compared with 20 in 1937. The total number of injuries has been reduced from 7,205 in 1937 to 4,462 in 1940."

*Science News Letter, June 28, 1941*

About 10,000 Army Air Corps officers are to be taught *Spanish*, the vocabulary being adapted to air corps needs.

One result of Britain's campaign to grow more *food* has been an addition of a million tons of cereals produced in 1940.

## ● Earth Trembles

Information collected by Science Service from seismological observatories resulted in the location by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey of the following preliminary epicenter:

*Wednesday, June 18, 6:09 a.m., EST*

In the ocean centered between Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland. Latitude, 52 degrees north. Longitude, 32 degrees west. Strong shock.

For stations cooperating with Science Service, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Jesuit Seismological Association in reporting earthquakes recorded on their seismographs, see SNL, Feb. 22.

## PSYCHOLOGY

# Here's Recipe for Cocktail Served by Fifth Columnists

## British Physician Also Furnishes Prescription as Antidote for Its Mental Poison—Friendliness

**A**MERICANS who patriotically want to remain sober during the present unlimited emergency will avoid imbibing a cocktail which is the favorite concoction of fifth columnists.

The recipe for this Mickey Finn is exposed by a British psychologist and physician, Dr. Edward Glover, director of the Institute for the Treatment of Delinquency, in a new book, *The Psychology of Fear and Courage*. (Reviewed, SNL, this issue.) It is:

"Take first of all a few hard facts, the news of some reverse or other, if necessary doctored to make it more impressive. (This is to shake our general confidence and make us more receptive to suggestion.)

"Mix it well with a few equally hard facts about class distinction or grievance or hardship. (This is to set one group against another.)

"Add some aspersions on the motives and personal character of the nation's leaders. (This obviously to weaken the leading strings of national feeling.)

"Flavor as required with some good journalistic touches (to make a plausible story).

"Spice with a few threats.

"Serve hot and strong over the radio."

Dr. Glover also offers a beneficial prescription as antidote for the poison in the propaganda cocktail. Anxiety, he says, is essentially a reaction to inner loneliness. The man or the woman or the child who feels that he has no part in an affectionate family or social group falls easy prey to fears and suspicions.

It is to be hoped that America will not have to face the panic-producing situations that have been the almost daily fare in London. But we will undoubtedly have to be alert if we are not to swallow the poison potions of the propagandist and become hysterical victims of the spy mania, the alien antagonism, the fifth-column fever.

Dr. Glover's first remedy is friendliness and neighborliness. Men and women should band together in close groups,

cheered by kindness and mutual association.

If psychological first-aid should be needed for a neighbor actually jittery from too much frightful war news, offer a soothing cup of weak tea, a cigaret. Or if he is of the type who reacts to anxiety as he would to physical shock and needs stimulant, sugar in candy or cake is an excellent restorative as is strong coffee or brandy.

You will find, Dr. Glover assures, that many will be glad to become your patients if you offer this sort of psychological first-aid flavored with pleasant conversation.

*Science News Letter, June 28, 1941*

## AERONAUTICS

## Airplane Manipulation Taught with New Device

**P**ATENTED recently was a device for practicing airplane manipulation. It remains in a fixed position, but as the control stick is operated, and the rudder pedals as well, the pointers on instrument dials connected with them move in a realistic manner. The inventor says that it can be used to develop coordination between the hands and the feet. (*Patent 2,243,973, Edward K. Mills, Jr.*)

*Science News Letter, June 28, 1941*

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