

Tuna, bonito, and other fish found in the Peruvian waters are pronounced a valuable source of fish liver oils for export trade. Cut off from European sources of vitamin-bearing fish oils, the United States could absorb large quantities of these products for human consumption and for livestock, and there is considered a possibility that the American republics could build up a post-war trade in world markets.

*Science News Letter, December 13, 1941*

## METALLURGY

## "Stainless" Silverware By Plating With Alloy

**S**ILVER plated ware, ordinarily very susceptible to tarnish because of its high purity, can now be made "stainless."

It is done by plating with a tarnish resisting alloy, instead of with pure silver. James Ryder, of Denver, Colorado, who has received patent 2,259,270, invented a special electrolytic bath containing silver fluoride, compounds of tin and of uranium, and non-metallic substances to aid the process, in stated amounts.

The inventor states that his method produces a brilliant plate that requires no polishing or burnishing. He says that he has subjected it to every sort of food and food acid and to all types of sulfur-containing products, egg yoke, rubber, etc., without any trace of tarnish appearing.

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### Children of New Skies

**A**MERICANS are what they are largely because of the American climate. It is enough like the climate of Europe to enable European settlers in the new land to live and work. It is sufficiently different to necessitate changes, sometimes quite radical changes, in ways of living and working.

This is one point developed in *Climate and Man*, the 1941 yearbook issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (*Reviewed, SNL, this issue.*) Following the practice of recent years, the entire book is devoted to a single subject, this time climate, with chapters written by various specialists, and the whole "sym-

posed" under the general editorship of Gove Hambidge.

The first-settled region in what is now the United States was the humid East. Here the climate was most nearly similar to that of Europe. Yet even here they felt the differences sharply. "This was indeed a lustier land to which the settlers had come," writes Dr. Carl O. Sauer, who contributes this section, "a land of hotter summers and colder winters, of brighter and hotter sun and more tempestuous rain, a land suited to and provided with a greater variety of vegetation than the homelands of Europe."

As the descendants of the original settlers, with later-coming immigrants, surged over the eastern mountains and occupied the central valley, then in turn conquered the farther wildernesses of Western plains, desert plateaus and at last the Pacific slope, they met other new climates, most of them with even more violent contrasts than those their forebears had known in the East. The changeable climate of the Plains, for example, is likened by Dr. C. Warren Thornthwaite to a woman—all smiles one moment, a termagant the next. Men have responded to such temperamental weather as they would respond to temperamental wives, neither wholly yielding nor wholly defying, but adapting. And thus they have been molded into a new people—Americans.

The yearbook as a whole is divided into five sections: climate as a world influence, climate and agricultural settlement, climate and the farmer, the scientific approach to weather and climate, and climatic data, with special reference to agriculture in the United States.

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