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Science News Letter, March 5, 1960

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CHEMISTRY

Known Process May Supply Space Oxygen

FUTURE SPACE travelers may get their oxygen from a chemical process known for many years.

The process is the reduction of carbon dioxide with hydrogen and recovery of breathable oxygen by electrolysis of water, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers meeting was told at Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. John F. Foster of Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio, said the process "appears to be substantially superior to other processes considered." The apparatus involved has "potentially a low weight, great reliability, and good efficiency with low power and energy consumption."

Dr. Foster pointed out that space vehicles probably will make trips of several years duration and will not be able to carry an adequate supply of oxygen.

Reduction of carbon dioxide by hydrogen, he said, is a well known reaction that has been used by the gas industry to produce fuel gas.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1960

Dive Depth Corrected

Precise calibration of the depth gauges aboard the bathyscaph Trieste shows that the actual depth reached on its record dive in the Marianas Trench off Guam on Jan. 23 was 35,800 feet, or 2,000 feet less than first reported, the U.S. Navy has announced. See SNL, 77:91, 1960.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1960