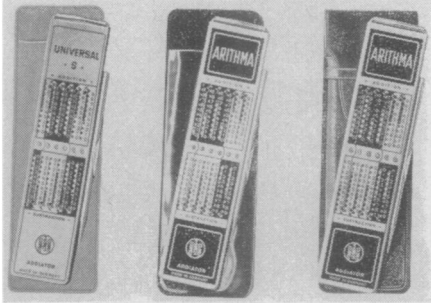


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### CHEMISTRY

## See Atomic Waste Use In Salt Water Conversion

➤ **RADIOACTIVE WASTE PRODUCTS** from atomic plants may soon be a source of energy for converting salt water to fresh water. This use could help solve the problem of disposing of highly radioactive material, and also help combat the growing water shortage in the United States.

Dr. A. L. Miller, director, office of saline water of the U.S. Interior Department, said that the energy from the waste products could provide the heat source for a salt water distillation plant. One batch of radioactive material, in powder form, could give off heat for 15 years, he estimated. Cost for this heat source in the United States would be competitive with oil and other forms of energy, Dr. Miller said.

The powder is left as a residue when highly radioactive liquid waste material is heated at high temperature, driving off all the gases. The powder remaining is easier to transport and safer to handle than the bulky liquids.

Dr. Miller said that a distillation plant utilizing this heat source will be built in the near future in cooperation with the Atomic Energy Commission.

• Science News Letter, 79:62 January 28, 1961

### ICHTHYOLOGY

## Fish Locate Their Homes By the Sense of Smell

➤ **FISH CAN LOCATE** their homes by the sense of smell, C. W. Threinen, administrative assistant in the Wisconsin Conservation Department, has reported.

He said that in experiments made in Indiana with longear sunfish some of the fish were blinded, the sense of smell was destroyed on others, and both sight and smell were destroyed on a third group.

The fish were then displaced from their homes in a stream and watched. Those with undamaged sense of smell got home safely even though they could not see.

• Science News Letter, 79:62 January 28, 1961

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