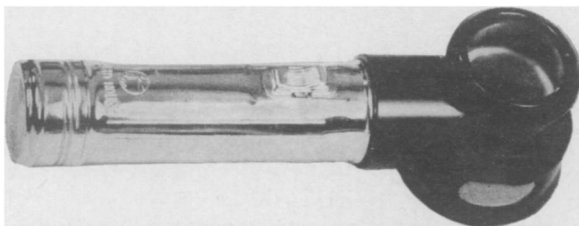


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## Questions

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**BIOLOGY**—What is the source for the enzyme scientists have found speeds the healing of burns? p. 39.

**FORESTRY**—How can ultrasonics be used to detect flaws in living trees? p. 40.

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### TECHNOLOGY

## Wrist-Watch Size Dry-Storage Battery

➤ A MINIATURE dry-cell type rechargeable battery that is almost indestructible and is expected to be "good" for ten years' use has been invented by two Naval Ordnance Laboratory scientists.

Monroe B. Goldberg and Herbert B. Reed of the underwater ordnance department of NOL were seeking a midget battery to use in the "brains" of underwater mines. Using lead, lead-oxide and silver powder for the plates in their experimental battery, they came up with a "mighty midget," a single cell rated at 1.5 ampere hours and delivering nine-tenths of a volt. The familiar flashlight battery cell, many times larger, gives 1.5 volts and cannot be recharged successfully.

Adaptable to the transistorized circuits in hearing aids, walkie-talkies and portable radios, the tiny battery weighs 1.5 ounces, and is expected to be mass-produced at a cost of about 50% more than the mercury batteries currently being used. The advantages of long life, constant voltage and durability "far outweigh weight and cost considerations," NOL scientists reported.

The battery was developed after only 13 months of research.

Three years of experiments indicate the rugged device is highly resistant to shock, vibration, temperatures from minus 65 degrees to 165 degrees Fahrenheit, and "gassing," a common failing of sealed batteries in which the electric current decomposes certain chemicals to form gases that ruin the cell. The new battery contains no gas-forming chemicals.

The battery is so rugged that it withstands shocks better than the transistors in circuits containing both elements, tests showed.

The new dry-storage cell is under a Government patent, and has been released to the public for production and use.

Science News Letter, July 20, 1957

