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### TECHNOLOGY

## Test "Bubble Bath" To Dampen Mine Fires

► **DISASTROUS COAL MINE** fires may be cooled in the future by a moving wall of foam made from substances similar to household detergents and bubble bath powders.

The U. S. Bureau of Mines plans a test in the near future of the British-developed technique of blowing a solid wall of wet bubbles through mine tunnels toward raging underground fires that hamper explosion rescue work. The wall of wet foam cools the fire and allows firefighters to move in close enough to extinguish the flames.

Plans for extensive tests were revealed at Madisonville, Ky., by Dr. Irving Hartmann, Pittsburgh, Pa., chief of the bureau's Branch of Dust Explosions, in a speech before the Western Kentucky Mining Institute.

A Bureau of Mines spokesman said the technique "looks promising" for cooling fires in mines with horizontal tunnels, but probably would not be useful in vertical shaft mines. In practice, a detergent foam is sprayed against a cotton net stretched across the tunnel. The resulting wall of foam is then blown through the tunnel by the mine's ventilating system.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957

### ENTOMOLOGY

## Different Insect Stings Need Different Treatment

► **HONEYBEE** and wasp stings may feel alike, but they are actually different and should be treated differently, report U. S. Department of Agriculture entomologists.

The female honeybee, in contrast to the female of the wasp family, leaves the stinger in her victim. It is important to scrape out—never pull out—the stinger immediately to keep as much as possible of the venomous fluid from entering the flesh. If the stinger is pulled out, the fingers press the poison sacs attached to the stinger's base and this forces the poison into the skin, just as a hypodermic needle would.

Wasps, hornets and yellow jackets, all of the same family, use their stingers as weapons to force their poison into the victim's flesh and can sting repeatedly.

Cold applications to relieve the swelling that results from a bee or wasp sting followed by applications of a water and bicarbonate of soda paste is the recommended treatment when stung.

If stung many times, or if the reaction is severe, warns the U. S. Public Health Service, see a doctor promptly.

Science News Letter, October 5, 1957

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