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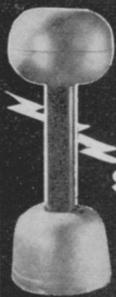
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INVENTION

Current U. S. Patents

The element curium, created by bombarding uranium 238 and plutonium 239 with alpha particles in a cyclotron, is an intense neutron and heat source.

➤ **ELEMENT 96**, also known as curium (Cm), earned a patent from the U.S. Patent Office for Nobelist Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. Seaborg received a companion patent last month for element 95, americium.

Element 96 was created as a result of bombardment of uranium 238 and plutonium 239 with high energy ions or alpha particles in a cyclotron. Although producing and separating the element was of great scientific interest at the time, only recently has a practical use been found for curium. Curium is an intense neutron and heat source.

Dr. Seaborg assigned patent 3,161,462 for element 96 to the Atomic Energy Commission. He also holds some 40 other patents and has several more pending.

Gas Optical Maser

A gas optical maser earned a patent for two scientists well known for their basic research on lasers.

Dr. William R. Bennett Jr., Berkeley Heights, N.J., one of the developers of noble gas lasers, and Dr. Ali Javan, Cambridge, Mass., the inventor of the continuous gas phase laser, were awarded patent 3,159,707 for the maser. Rights to their latest patent were assigned to Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc., Murray Hill, N. J.

The gas optical maser, which received considerable recognition when first introduced about two years ago, features a process called disassociative excitation transfer. In this process a new frequency is produced by mixing a noble gas, such as neon or argon, with oxygen.

An optical maser, known as a laser, is a device which gives off a highly intense beam of pure light that can drill through metal.

Flavor Injection for Poultry

Chickens can now not only be fattened before they are killed for eating, but flavored too.

A method has been developed for injecting live poultry with a seasoning ingredient, such as sage, garlic, nutmeg or sesame, to make the meat tastier. A solution of the seasoning ingredient and the enzyme hyaluronidase is injected under the neck skin of the fowl. The hyaluronidase spreads the flavoring quickly and uniformly throughout the flesh of the bird, which is killed and processed a short time later.

The "seasoning" injection earned patent 3,159,489 for Dr. John F. Murphy, Chicago Heights, Ill., and Robert E. Murphy, Union,

Mo. Patent rights were assigned to Swift & Company, Chicago.

Dr. John Murphy, director of Swift's Research laboratory, told SCIENCE SERVICE that the injection method is not yet being used commercially, but is still under study.

Dial-A-Temp

A device that takes the outside temperature and relates its findings to persons calling on the phone earned patent 3,161,729.

The device, which also announces the time, is being used throughout the country by telephone companies to provide an additional service to their customers, one of its inventors, Ellis H. Bryant Jr., Atlanta, Ga. Co-inventor of the machine is John O. McCarty, also of Atlanta.

The machine uses a drum which moves up and down like mercury in a thermometer with the various temperature changes. The reading on the drum is translated into a voice announcement when someone calls the service number.

Patent rights were assigned to The Audichron Company, Atlanta.

Sleep-Producing Device

Three Russians earned patent 3,160,159 for their device to induce sleep by passing an electric current through the brain.

The device, designed to treat patients with various diseases who are away from a hospital, can be used at home, while transporting patients or under field conditions. The electrodes supplying the current are attached to the patient's head, and two or more patients may be treated simultaneously.

Jusha Borisovich Hoody, Viacheslav P. Kootinov and Vasily S. Bulba-Popkov, all of Moscow, state that the sleep-producing device operates on direct current of from 25 to 130 cycles per second.

Bowling for the Disabled

Disabled persons can bowl from a wheelchair with the aid of a newly patented slide-like device.

The device consists of two aluminum bars and braces that make up a trackway on which the bowling ball fits. The trackway, which is shaped like a playground slide, but has rails instead of a seat, can be easily adjusted by the handicapped bowler. He merely sets the track in position toward the distant pins and gently pushes the ball down the slide. The ball then sails down the slide, skips off it, and spins down the alley to the pins.

The gravity bowling device won patent 3,159,401 for Robert V. Ikenberry, Mason City, Iowa.

• Science News Letter, 87:14 January 2, 1965