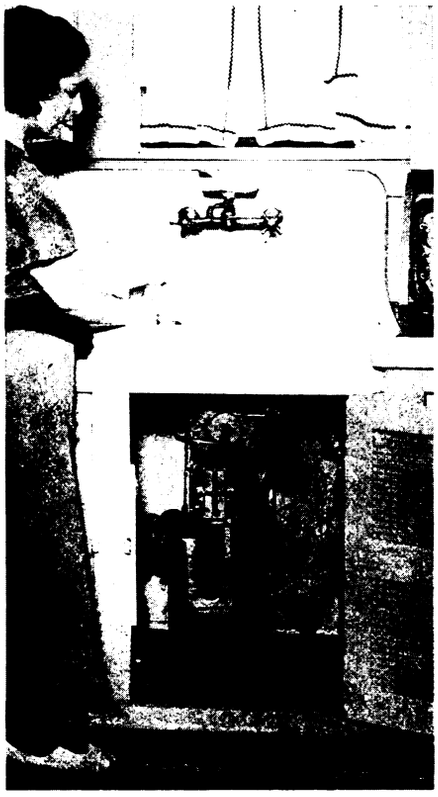

NEW CONVENIENCE

This food grinder, small enough to fit under the kitchen sink, will cut up all sorts of waste food into a mash fine enough to wash away down the waste pipes.

PHYSIOLOGY

Vitamin Is Old-Fashioned; New Names Should Be Used

VITAMIN is an old-fashioned word that has served its period of usefulness and should now be discarded, in the opinion of Andrew Moldavan, of Montreal.

"The vague expression 'vitamin' will eventually join the musty company of phlogistic, humors, animalcules and kindred antiquated terms," predicts Mr. Moldavan (*Science,* June 28).

Vitamin was all right in the early days of the discovery of the vitamins, explains Mr. Moldavan, but now that scientists know so much about the chemistry of the vitamins and their effect on the body, there is no further excuse for not calling them by more specific and accurate names. They should be classified, he suggests, with the chemical family to which they belong or grouped with the natural or pharmaceutical substances to which they are closely related in their effect on the body.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1935

MEDICINE

Animal Charcoal Successful As Treatment for Infections

Used on 150 Patients With 300 Injections Resulting In Quick Relief; Pain All Gone Within 48 Hours

SUCCESS in treating various infections by injecting animal charcoal into the veins has been reported to the Academy of Medicine, Paris, by Dr. Eugene St. Jacques of Montreal.

Dr. St. Jacques believes this is a very successful treatment for childbirth infections and also claims he has had remarkable success in the treatment of boils. Within forty-eight hours there was no pain, the boils soon healed and the cures seemed to be definite. Septicemias of the worst kind improved and were cured in a short time with the animal charcoal treatment.

He has used charcoal this way in one hundred and fifty patients, giving three hundred injections. There were no unpleasant results. The circulation was in no way affected. Only in a few cases did the temperatures rise slightly at the end of the first hour.

The preparation used was a two per cent. suspension of animal charcoal in distilled water. In using the suspension, the piston, the syringe barrel and needle were coated with sterilized paraffin to prevent the clinging of the particles of carbon and blocking the syringe.

Prof. R. I. Conklin of the Macdonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, had been making experiments on animals with this method. In the college they had treated seven hundred thirty-eight animals with various infections with good results. The findings from these experiments led Dr. St. Jacques to believe that the therapy would be equally efficacious when used on his patients. The biological findings showed that the endothelial cells of the spleen, liver and bone marrow became more active in clearing the offending infections. The polynuclear cells of the blood increased in number and become more vigorous in ingesting the bacterial agents.

The method used by Dr. St. Jacques is to inject from 3 to 5 cubic centimeters intravenously according to the seriousness of the infection. He thinks a larger dose would not be injurious.

Animal charcoal, when purified, is a dull black powder, tasteless, odorless and insoluble in water, alcohol or the solvents. It has great adsorptive properties and has been used for many years as an antidote for animal and vegetable poisons. At one time it was a favored constituent in bread and flaxseed poultices for use on infected wounds and ulcers. Dr. St. Jacques seems to be the first to have used this new method of injecting animal charcoal in a sufficient number of cases to prove definitely its value in refractory infections.

Science News Letter, July 27, 1935

ENGINEERING

Engineer Sees Wider Use of Precious Metals in Industry

GOLD, silver, platinum, and other precious metals deserve a much wider use in industrial operations than they now have, according to Frank E. Carter, of Baker and Company, Newark. Their use would solve many problems of corrosion, acid and heat resistance now the bane of engineers, he points out in a report to the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Iron, the most generally used metal, has good properties and is cheap, but in a great many industrial processes nonferrous metals are admittedly better and would be used except that they cost more. Sometimes the question of cost is too hurriedly considered, Mr. Carter points out. Longer life, improvement in product and high salvage price of precious metal parts would often over-balance the initial price difference. Under some conditions due to market fluctuation, the scrap value of