

trained and registered to fill the present demand. Encouraging also is the fact that while wage levels in pharmacy dropped during the depression, there was almost no unemployment.

Filling prescriptions or performing other duties in retail pharmacies is by no means the only occupation open to pharmacy graduates. About one-third of the graduates of schools of pharmacy become retail store owners, a survey showed. Nearly another third are employed in such stores. The remaining third are listed as industrial owners, executives, teachers, research workers, physicians and other professional men, technical organization and journal executives, manufacturers' representatives or as having engaged in a host of other related occupations.

Science News Letter, February 25, 1939

ORDNANCE

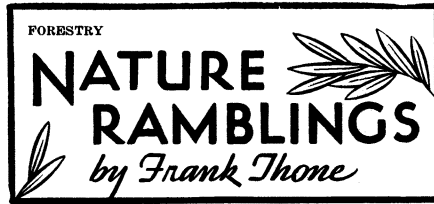
Invent Shells That Burst When They "See" Target

SHELLS that can "see" their target, and burst when they see it, are the newest device of anti-aircraft warfare brought out by the great Bofors ordnance factory in Stockholm.

In the nose of the shell is a cartridge of magnesium, that burns with a brilliant light during flight. The light streams out through radial openings in the shell casing. If some of these light beams strike the target (an airplane) they are reflected back to the shell, where they strike photocells which are in turn electrically connected to the detonating mechanism.

An anti-aircraft shell need not actually strike its target to destroy it. The concussion of the explosion, together with the flying cloud of steel splinters, will ordinarily suffice to destroy the plane. Present anti-aircraft shells are detonated by a clockwork fuse, which has to be set mechanically before firing.

Science News Letter, February 25, 1939



The Dangerous Dead

NEW ENGLAND'S hurricane of last fall is old news now. The rest of the country has pretty completely forgotten it. Only the New Englanders have no chance to forget: the corpses of millions of trees still litter their hills and choke their valleys. Removal before spring releases swarms of boring insects and the danger of ravaging fire is imperative. The dead, even dead trees, are always dangerous.

Logging the slowdown is lagging seriously, warns Stewart H. Holbrook in *American Forests* (February). The public assistance set-ups that were established within a few days after the disaster are in full swing, and are bending every effort to get the timber clear before the deadline of warm, dry weather, but still it is not enough.

There are many obstacles and handicaps. Crews of WPA and CCC men are doing part of the clearing, but there are not enough recruits to bring their numbers up to the necessary level.

The federal government has acquired numerous ponds in which to sink the logs to keep them from spoiling. Federal money is ready to buy the logs if the

farmers will bring them to the ponds. But labor costs are high, farmers and their hired men are inexperienced in handling timber, and snagging logs out of a tangled heap of down trunks is more difficult than taking them from a standing forest.

The clean-up forces have received important help from the north, in the husky shapes of "Bangor tigers"—stout sons of Paul Bunyan from the Maine woods. They are working wonders in the tangled masses of giant jackstraws tossed by the great wind.

Right now is the critical time, says Mr. Holbrook. There must be a trebling of CCC and WPA crews. "Either that or New England is in for the smokiest summer it has ever known. And the smoke won't be that of industry."

Science News Letter, February 25, 1939

MEDICINE

Infantile Paralysis Cases Often Run in Pairs

CASES of infantile paralysis often come in pairs—two cases in the same family, two cases in different families in the same dwelling, two cases in a children's institution, three cases from adjoining houses. This has been the situation in the District of Columbia in the period between 1925 and 1938, according to survey figures announced by the U. S. Public Health Service.

What this probably means is that "either there is a strong element of contagion" in infantile paralysis in its early stages or that there are common sources of infection or both.

The survey was made by Dr. C. C. Dauer of the District of Columbia Health Department (*Public Health Reports*).

Science News Letter, February 25, 1939

Sacred lakes near Egypt's great temples were artificial pools providing water for ritual purposes and also a place to float model boats used in religious processions.

SCIENCE NEWS

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Dr. George D. Stoddard, director of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station, Iowa City, will be guest scientist on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, Director, Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Thursday, March 2, 7:15 p. m. EST, 6:15 p. m. CST, 5:15 p. m. MST, 4:15 p. m. PST. Listen in to your local station. Listen in each Thursday.

