

make for the gas mask factory for two reasons. In America—as yet—thanks be gas masks are a rarity and there is something of a Man-from-Mars aspect about them which intrigues the layman. Subconsciously perhaps the urge to visit the gas mask factory comes from the realization that here the civilian will probably find his closest reminder of what war is like.

Gas mask manufacture is one of Edgewood's chief activities. Eight hundred a day are being turned out by a skeleton force of 280—nearly all civilians and under Civil Service. These masks go to the Army and the Navy to replace old masks and to make possible a greater distribution of masks in the services, where the present ratio of masks to soldiers and sailors is about one mask for every four men.

Using the same plant, but by increasing personnel to 1,500 and by going on a 24-hour production day, it is estimated that 300,000 masks per month could be made at Edgewood.

Gas mask manufacture has come a long way since that shocking day in April, 1915, when a thin veil of haze swept over the landscape at Ypres and left in its wake a terrorized, shattered force of British and French soldiers.

The hastily concocted handkerchiefs soaked in a solution of sodium thiosulfate, known also as hypo in photography, and tied over the mouth and nose, which the British used to gain some measure of safety from the original chlorine gas of the Germans, have now been replaced by masks that are proof against any known poison gas or dust.

The weight of the mask and its supplementary filtering canister has come down, its utility has gone up. It fits better, lasts longer and is more comfortable.

Clever placement of the intake duct splits the flow of air and makes it sweep across the eye-pieces of the masks to keep them free of breath fog.

Special masks are coming into production for all manner of jobs in the Army and Navy. Commissioned and non-commissioned officers are supplied with diaphragm masks which permit the sounds of commands to come out without letting in poison gas. Telephone operators of the signal corps, too, wear masks of

this type.

Some new masks have their eyepieces made to optical perfection so that the wearers can read delicate and sensitive instruments. Try reading the vernier settings on the range of a 75 millimeter gun while wearing an old-time gas mask and see how low is the accuracy of fire. Aviators need such special masks too because of the myriad of instruments before them in the cockpit.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Indian Ears Preserved By Copper Earrings

INDIAN ears "preserved" by salts formed by their copper earrings after burial, and Indian skulls that were buried minus bodies by some strange prehistoric American custom, are among the finds salvaged by archaeologists from the Alabama T. V. A. area now flooded by waters of Wheeler Dam.

Rated highly important for reconstructing events in Southeastern states in America's prehistory, the excavations at 19 sites in this area are described in a report by Prof. William S. Webb, of the University of Kentucky, issued by the Smithsonian Institution.

The most primitive of the Indians whose homes now lie beneath the lake are described by Prof. Webb as having lived mainly on the bounty of the Tennessee River. They had no agriculture, no pottery, and did little hunting. They may have been cannibalistic, but the evidence is doubtful. They used a throwing

stick, similar to the atlatl of pre-bow and arrow days in some other sections of America, which may mean that these Indians lived many centuries ago.

Prof. Webb and his associates recorded every significant detail of Indian cultures they could find in the area to be flooded, because so far archaeologists admit they are far from understanding when and how various tribes and types of Indian culture left their mark on the aboriginal Southeast. Shell ornaments and other objects found in some of the Alabama burial mounds resemble articles used at the well-known Indian mound settlement of Etowah, Georgia, 100 miles east. At other Alabama sites, many articles unearthed suggest to experts the advanced Hopewellian Mound Builder culture in the Mississippi Valley. Links between these factions, whatever they were, are still missing.

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