

woodbine in the United States. One is the Virginia creeper or five-fingered ivy, which is not fragrant. The other (really the one entitled to the name) is a naturalized vine honeysuckle from the Old World, which thrives well in the South, but is hardly to be found north of central New Jersey. Payne probably got to know the vine well during a period he spent with the Chero-

kee Indians in the Southern Appalachians.

Probably the most exploited plant in present-day lyrics is cotton. It constitutes the entire vegetation of the south, especially Alabama, in the rather weird geobotany of the bards of Tin Pan Alley—for whom Dixie begins at the southern environs of Jersey City.

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ENGINEERING

Germany May Well Attain Adequate Aviation Fuels

IMPLIED warning that America must not assume eventual failure of the German air force through Allied blockade of overseas petroleum supplies appears in a report of Dr. Benjamin T. Brooks, consulting chemist and petroleum expert, to the American Chemical Society.

Statements that Germany lacks production facilities for the super gasolines, needed in swift pursuit and attack planes for greatest performance, have been common since the European war started. Dr. Brooks' analysis, one of the few yet published showing the other side of the picture, shows that:

1. Given adequate technical preparation, together with petroleum from Rumania and Russia, Germany should not be handicapped in quality or quantity of aviation fuels.

2. The catalytic process of making high-octane aviation fuels was discovered in Germany, and knowledge of the best methods can reasonably be assumed to be available there. No reliable information is available showing how far Germany has gone in this direction.

3. Germany apparently operates 20% of her air force with Diesel powered planes, thus conserving super gasolines for the fighters and fastest bombers.

4. Super fuels are not absolutely needed for long range bombing. Dr. Brooks

recalls that Lindbergh flew the Atlantic 12 years ago with gasoline of only 69 octane rating. While merits of better gasoline are many, only the war itself will show whether 100 octane gasolines are as essential as many experts have indicated.

5. By water cooling many of its planes Germany is enabled to use benzene blends for fuel, as do many racing motor cars. This permits Germany to use some 4,500,000 barrels of benzene for aviation purposes.

6. By adapting injection fuel methods, discovered in Diesel engine development, many German planes can use a wider range of octane number fuels to much greater advantage.

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ORNITHOLOGY

First Thanksgiving Bird Saved from Fate of Dodo

PRE-THANKSGIVING note: There is a good chance that the genuine original Thanksgiving turkey will not join the dodo in ornithological extinction—the wild turkey, that is. The tame, domesticated, raised-for-the-market turkey is plentiful but the wild turkey, America's largest game bird, the symbol of Thanksgiving, has been in danger of vanishing. Once common over most of the U. S. east of the Rockies in wooded areas, wild turkeys whose ancestors fed the Pilgrims of New England have been rapidly disappearing. Reason: Woods converted to farmlands and overshooting. The U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey experts are making things easy and safe for them, cooperating with state game departments and sportsmen. Wild turkeys need large areas upon which to live. Some gobblers have been known to travel 15 miles from their roosts.

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