Do You Know?

Cotton probably leads all the cultivated crops in attracting a great variety of insect enemies; more than 100 species attack the cotton crop in one way or another.

One type of seismograph, an instrument used to detect and record earthquake vibrations, magnifies ground motion 100,000 times; weak quakes thousands of miles away are picked up by it.

Following the two great earthquakes in 1906, in California and Colombia, a world-wide interest resulted which is responsible for the establishment of many new seismograph stations to receive and record earth motions.

There are four basic odors classified by scientists as fragrance, acid, burnt and caprylic; caprylic comes from a Latin word meaning goat and applies to all animal odors with the best known example perhaps that of a wet dog.



Bridge Checks Temperature For Vapor Pressure Studies

Precise temperature measurement is an important part of vapor pressure studies at Bureau of Mines, Bartlesville, Okla. Samples are immersed in a constant temperature bath during test, and a Mueller Bridge gives exact temperature indications.

Catalog E-33C(1) describes the Mueller Bridge. Free on request.



Jrl. Ad E-33-241(1a)

and contains approximately 300,000 yards of yarn to the pound.

Stockings and socks regain their original shape when washed because they have been permanently "set" with steam or very hot water. Once given a desired shape or form, they hold this shape permanently.

Nylon was first introduced to the public about 10 years ago. Twenty years ago the late Dr. W. E. Carothers, its discoverer, little dreamed that his research would lead to a material versatile enough to be used both as a plastic and as a synthetic textile fiber.

Nylon made its first public appearance

as a toothbrush bristle. It established its popularity as yarn for sheer, quick-drying stockings. During the war it was so much in demand for military use that for more than three years no nylon was available commercially, except possibly in toothbrush bristles.

Today nylon is used in tire cord and laundry nets, garden hose and work gloves, sailcloths and trolley cords. It is beginning to appear in self-locking nuts and hypodermic needles, in phonograph needles and lawn sprinklers. Still an experimental product, nylon's usefulness is just beginning to be explored.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

ENTOMOLOGY

Test DDT in Wind Tunnel

➤ MOSOUITOES in a wind tunnel are the newest means for testing the effectiveness of DDT in aerosols or fogs, such as are used for the large-scale "depesting" of summer resorts, athletic stadiums and the like.

The work is being done as a joint research project at the Beltsville, Md., experiment station of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, near Washington. First results are reported in the Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences (Nov. 15, 1947).

The wind tunnel is small, as compared with those used in aviation research: only a foot square in cross section and 32 feet long. About midway of its length a wire cage containing the victim mosquitoes can be inserted. Air speeds are low, simulating normal outof-door conditions: they ranged from two to 16 miles an hour in the present experiments.

DDT fog was released by a standard method, to give particles of controlled diameters, from one to twenty microns —that is, from droplets about the size of the smallest known bacteria up to specks just barely visible to the naked eye. Mosquitoes in batches were bombarded with particles of all sizes, at the four velocities used. Results were measured in terms of percentages of dead mosquitoes.

In general, it was found that better kills were obtained with the larger DDT-fog particles, and that higher air velocities were more effective than lower ones. It was even possible to plot the results as ballistic curves. The experiments are still being carried on.

Earliest results, just reported, were obtained in a joint research program shared by the U.S. Bureau of Entomol-

ogy and Plant Quarantine and the Central Aerosol Laboratory of Columbia University, supported by OSRD and NDRC funds. Workers were Drs. Randall Latta, Lauren D. Anderson, E. E. Rogers, V. K. LaMer, S. Hochberg, H. Lauterbach and I. Johnson.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

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