



NEW BLIND-FLYING GOGGLES—A green-red combination is now recommended to replace the blue-amber colors presently used for the windshield and goggles for pilots in blind-flying practice. The combination allows the pilot to see the instrument panel but not outside the cockpit, while the observer pilot's vision is unrestricted. Here Capt. Mathew R. Wilson, medical researcher at the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, Texas, fits a shield of the new green plastic to the canopy of a B-25.

AGRICULTURE

Can Produce More Food

► THE WORLD is far from the upper limit of its food production, Dr. F. T. Wahlen of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations told the Sixth International Grassland Congress in State College, Pa.

Proper use of present-day grasslands would bring quick improvement in the world food situation, he said. Besides further development of such acres, there are the last remaining untouched grasslands, which will soon be opened up for use.

It would be "tragic" and "unpardonable," Dr. Wahlen said, if this untapped food resource were not handled according to the latest techniques and know-how.

To provide food for the world's population, now having its greatest growth in history, the amount of land used for direct human food crops will probably be increased while that used for the support of livestock will be reduced. This will require better fodder crops and an early end to continuous cash crops that drain the land and give nothing back to the land in return, Dr. T. L. Bywater of the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, told scientists from more than 50 nations at the Congress.

One potential food source is Africa, which contains about one-fifth of the

world's land surface, yet produces less than one-twentieth of its food. A large part of African land, Dr. J. D. Scott of the University of Natal, Union of South Africa, reported, is not suitable for cultivation and will remain veld, or open pasture land. Although the veld is a wasting asset today, it could be of untold value. The known methods for improving its use must be applied before it is too late, he warned.

Science News Letter, August 30, 1952

INVENTION

Rotating Pipe Sprinkles Field Evenly

► COOL, COOL water can be evenly sprinkled on a field through use of an invention which received patent number 2,604,359. The invention consists of a pipe which rotates slowly around a central point from which the water is drawn. Valves in the pipe distribute the water evenly over the field. The water itself drives the supporting wheels, spaced along the length of the pipe.

The inventor is Frank L. Zybach, Strasburg, Colo.

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• RADIO

Saturday, Sept. 6, 1952, 3:15-3:30 p.m., EDT "Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. Franklyn C. Rogers, professor of civil engineering, Rutgers University, N. J., discusses "Research for Better Roads."

PSYCHOLOGY

Seek to Reveal Auto Parking Habits

► WHEN A parking lot operator cut down the capacity of his lot from 175 cars to 150, his business jumped 20%.

That may sound unreasonable, but the Highway Research Board has found there seems to be some relation between how long a person has to wait to get his car parked in a parking lot and how many cars are parked in that lot each day.

Parking lots are coming under more study by the Board. One reason is to find out what effect parking lots have on downtown parking congestion.

Headed by Theodore M. Matson of Yale University, a committee of the Board has been formed to ferret out the parking habits of the American driver. The committee will be assisted by independent firms interested in parking problems.

Among other things, the committee wants to know how long you park, where you came from, why you came down town, how you got down town before such-and-such a parking lot was opened, where you parked before it was opened, and how much money you make.

If a man approaches with pencil and paper while you are honking for the parking attendant to give you a claim ticket, do not be alarmed. Your answers to his questions may provide speedier parking for yourself and others in the future.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Half Nation's Bright Boys Available to Services

► THE ARMED Forces are getting about half the "bright boys," and the colleges are getting the other half.

This information has come out of a study by the Commission on Human Resources and Advanced Training, a privately sponsored group. Only about 50% of those who can pass the college selective service deferment test actually go to college, the rest are available for service, the commission found.

It is from this group that the Armed Services can draw many of its non-commissioned officers, radar technicians and other enlisted specialists.

Some of them cannot afford to go to college, others just do not want to go, or want to wait until after their military service is completed.

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