

• New Machines And Gadgets •

• A NEW TYPE of alcohol has been derived from the resin in waste pine stumps. Known chemically as hydroabietyl alcohol, the product opens the way for a new series of products. It may be used for making transparent paper, as a holding agent for China wood oil in furnishes, and as a plasticizer for various lacquers and protein film-formers.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

• FIRST FLUORESCENT lamp starter to have an average rated life of three years is now on the market. Its features also help prolong the life of the lamp and lower maintenance costs.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

• CIRCULAR, vest pocket slide rules are now available. They are said to be accurate and unbreakable.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

• LOW-COST soft water is now available to those small communities that have long fretted under the inconvenience of hard water. Water is sent spiraling through an inverted steel cone and comes out soft. The process avoids the disposal problem of the sludge precipitated by some older, more cumbersome methods.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

• THREE-IN-ONE combat gloves such as the one the pilot is wearing have been developed for use by United Nations flyers in sub-zero temperatures. An inner rayon glove with latex-treated thumb and forefinger enables the wear-



er to handle papers and pick up small objects. The middle glove is wool with a leather thumb-pad for gripping. The outer glove of soft horsehide has curved fingers; it stays soft after being wet and dried repeatedly. The long gauntlet zipper runs along a stiff section to prevent jamming.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

• SYNTHETIC RUBBER sponge has been developed that will stay soft and compressible at 40 below zero. It is supplied in black slabs or molded shapes for many wartime uses. The problem of making ordinary rubber products that would stay flexible at subzero temperatures had already been solved, but making a sponge compound with the same properties was a more difficult job.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

• PLANE TIRES designed to reduce landing hazards and to save weight substitute nylon cord for the customary cotton or rayon construction. Fewer plies of rubberized cord are used, yet greater strength is claimed.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

• AN AUTOMATIC machine tool control put intricate milling, boring, shaping, and similar operations, on a high-speed basis. It operates by converting changes in electrical impulses into hydraulic motion.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 165.

MEDICINE

British Medical Units Arrive Via Parachute

► PARACHUTING British medical units to care for the wounded in the advance line of action proved successful in the Tunisian campaign, the London correspondent reports (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 5).

This revolutionary advance in army medical service may lead to the adoption of air-borne medical units on a large scale by the British army. At present only the air corps is equipped to land surgeons and ambulance units by parachute and glider.

A medical unit consisting of ten men, including a surgeon lieutenant, was

• RADIO •

Saturday, July 24, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Fred C. Bishop, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture, will speak on "Personal Insects, those insects which attack man, such as mosquitoes, flies, gnats, chiggers, and ticks."

dropped by parachute close to the line of battle in the Tunisian campaign. During one day alone this unit attended 162 wounded. Due to the medical attention made immediately available by this means, the lives of all but one man were saved.

The unit arrived complete with full dressing station equipment, operating apparatus and instruments, anesthetics, sterilizers, medicines and dressings. Normally an air-borne medical unit can assemble its operating equipment within ten minutes of landing. Sufficient medical supplies and food are carried with the unit to last for several days without supplementary supplies.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1943

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