Since publication of the seventh edition of Chandler's "Introduction to Parasitology," 43 schools have adopted this textbook for the spring course of 1945. This is not, of course, an exceptional record for "Chandler," but in view of the discontinuance of many courses in the subject for the duration, it is nevertheless a substantial one. Frequent revisions have kept this book constantly up to date, and additions and improvements have increased the value of Dr. Chandler's book as a teaching aid. A few typical comments from users of this book will indicate some of the characteristics that particularly appeal to teachers:

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RECOVERING valuable aluminum for re-use from crushed war-weary, crashed or obsolete planes has been speeded up by a new process that literally dissolves the aluminum from whole sections of these planes. This new method, developed by the Aluminum Company of America in cooperation with the Air Technical Service Command, eliminates all need for sorting metals before the aluminum is melted down and gives an end product of pure, high-grade aluminum ready for reprocessing. The aluminum obtained from alloys and other metals coated with aluminum is for all intents and purposes the same as aluminum manufactured from bauxite.

Whole sections of wings and fuselage are placed in a bath of caustic soda. This caustic soda dissolves the aluminum in the planes, while any steel nuts and bolts, rivets, copper piping, bronze bushings, rubber or other non-aluminum parts are not attacked by the caustic and remain in solid form. Aluminum alloying elements are not attacked by the caustic, and as is the case with other non-aluminum parts they can be removed readily from the sludge. Thus scrapped planes are taken apart quickly by chemicals, instead of by tedious hand labor.

After filtering out the solid impurities from the sludge, the aluminum-bearing liquor is transformed into pure aluminum oxide by the Bayer process. This is accomplished by pumping the liquor into precipitating towers as high as six-story buildings and allowing it to stand and cool. In time, crystals of aluminum hydroxide begin to settle out. These crystals are removed and washed to free them of caustic soda. Then they are heated white hot in large rotating kilns to drive off any moisture and leave commercially pure aluminum oxide or alumina. The caustic soda recovered can be re-used.

The aluminum oxide can be processed into any desired form by standard methods, about which there is nothing new. Other parts, such as rivets, rubber and so on, can also be salvaged.

The chemical stripping of aluminum from wrecked planes makes possible the conservation of the country’s high-grade bauxite reserves and man-hours required to mine bauxite. If this process had been available at the time of the scrap aluminum drive in 1942, when housewives turned in to the government their aluminum pots, pans and skillets, those cooking utensils could have been processed and used in aircraft construction. As it was, they were of little value, since the large number of different mixtures and alloys of aluminum used in cooking utensils made it impossible to identify and sort the vast quantity turned in. Most of this material was melted down into low-grade metal.—ROBERT N. FARR.

ITEMS

The effects of changes in population, including war casualties, on the make-up of groups seeking employment is being studied at the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population, Miami University, under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The total population of the United States would increase by about 25,000,000 between 1940 and 1970, the Scripps scientists have estimated. This estimate was worked out on the assumption of medium fertility, medium mortality, no immigration and no war losses. By 1970 the population of the Soviet Union would increase by about 77,000,000 over that of 1940, according to an estimate quoted on the review of the work of the foundation by Dr. Raymond B. Fosdick, president of the foundation. During the same period France and England would each show a decrease of about 4,000,000. These estimates also are based on the assumption of an orderly development of past population changes and do not allow for war losses or boundary changes.

Facts to show the meaning of these and other changes in population, in terms of international trade, migration and agreements and also in terms of standards of living and cultural advancement or degradation within a country, are being sought in Rockefeller-supported studies at the Scripps Foundation and at the Office of Population Research at Princeton University.

A new, but important, instrument has been added to the already confusingly crowded instrument panels of multi-engine aircraft. Known as the engine performance calculator, it merits its position because it can show the pilot or flight engineer by a glance at a plastic dial how any engine is performing. It eliminates complicated mathematical computations which, if not accurate, might result in the plane’s failing to reach its destination, since the distance a multi-engine plane can fly depends largely upon the efficient operation of its engines. Developed by H. B. Riggs, a flight engineer with Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, the calculator is set in accordance with engine speed and manifold pressure instrument indications. From this is computed such important information as fuel consumption, horsepower and cylinder pressure. The idea for the calculator came to Mr. Riggs while he was trying to keep a malfunctioning patrol bomber engine in operation during a long flight over the Pacific.

Three new standard samples of hydrocarbons are now available from the National Bureau of Standards, bringing the total number to forty-six of these national standards of particular value in rubber, petroleum and chemical industries. They have been prepared and certified for use in calibrating spectrometers and other analytical instruments and apparatus used in the laboratories of these industries. The first of these standard samples were made available in January, 1944, as a contribution to the war effort. The purity of each is stated on the certificate accompanying them. They are also certified relative to values of refractive index and density, and some for calorimetric heat of combustion. This is for use in establishing heating values of gasoline and other volatile liquid fuels.
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