FUTURE SOURCES OF POWER

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The sun's rays shower as much energy on the earth's surface in one minute as the entire human race utilizes in one year. Despite the presence of this bountiful and unusual flow of energy, a large part of the struggles of the human race are concerned with acquiring and controlling sources of power. Evidently our state of development in the utilization of power is still rather crude. A review of the various practical sources of the present day is in order.

PETROLEUM

The energy supply which is most critical in America is that of petroleum. At the present time we are using considerably over a billion barrels per year. The known proved reserve of petroleum in the ground is 14 to 17 billion barrels, depending on who does the estimating. Thus the petroleum actually in sight is only about a twelve-year supply. But new discoveries are being made constantly so most of the people in the petroleum industry say they are not worried about the supply, at least for the present generation. It is a little discouraging to note, however, that the new discoveries are not quite keeping pace with use so the pinch of partial depletion may come sooner than the optimists anticipate.

There may be discoveries of great new fields, but the prospects of that are not very good. There is the possibility of extensive fields lying under the ocean