

# SCIENCE

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No. 2624

<i>Full Employment After the War: How to Achieve it and Maintain it</i> : DR. JOSEPH MAYER .....	367	LEOPOLD R. CERECEDO, ROBERT P. MULL and PROFESSOR F. F. NORD. <i>Podoptera, a Homoeotic Mutant of Drosophila and the Origin of the Insect Wing</i> : PROFESSOR RICHARD B. GOLDSCHMIDT .....	381
<i>Obituary</i> :		<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods</i> :	
<i>Recent Deaths</i> .....	372	<i>A Suggested Sterility Test for Penicillin</i> : DR. ROBERT D. MUIR and DR. GEORGE VALLEY. <i>A Simple Device for the Addition or Removal of Solutions or Gases to a Closed System</i> : JOSEPHINE BECKWITH SENN. <i>Rapid Staining Method for Relapsing Fever Spirochetes</i> : PFC. CHARLES L. WISSEMAN, JR. ....	390
<i>Scientific Events</i> :		<i>Science News</i> .....	12
<i>The Royal Society; Affiliation of the Shell Development Research Club with the Society of the Sigma Xi; The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis; The Passano Foundation Award</i> .....	372		
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	374		
<i>Discussion</i> :			
<i>Trypsin and Chymotrypsin versus Heparin</i> : DR. M. K. HORWITT. <i>Plasmodium Vivax Chesson Strain</i> : DR. FREDERICK C. EHRMAN, DR. JOHN M. ELLIS and DR. MARTIN D. YOUNG. <i>Reaction of Vitamin A with Super-Filtrol</i> : DR. H. R. KREIDER. <i>Biological Research and Publication</i> : PROFESSOR T. D. A. COCKERELL .....	376		
<i>Scientific Books</i> :			
<i>Elliptic Functions</i> : PROFESSOR PHILIP FRANKLIN. <i>Industrial Psychology</i> : DR. PAUL S. ACHILLES .....	378		
<i>Reports</i> :			
<i>Sponsors of World Exploration</i> : G. R. CRONE .....	379		
<i>Special Articles</i> :			
<i>Recovery of Equine Encephalomyelitis Virus (Western Type) from Chicken Mites</i> : DR. S. EDWARD SULKIN. <i>The Antibacterial Properties of Dicumarol</i> : DR. ANDRES GOTH. <i>The Mechanism of Growth Inhibition by Hexenolactone</i> : DR. THEODORE HAUSCHKA, DR. GERRIT TOENNIES and DR. ANSEL P. SWAIN. <i>Hydrolysis of Choline Esters by Liver</i> : DR. CHARLES H. SAWYER. <i>A Catalytic Effect of Thiamine at the Dropping Mercury Electrode</i> : ALBERT WOLLENBERGER. <i>The Nutritive Value of Fusaria</i> : LEONARD J. VINSON, PROFESSOR			

## FULL EMPLOYMENT AFTER THE WAR: HOW TO ACHIEVE IT AND MAINTAIN IT<sup>1</sup>

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### INTRODUCTORY

ON September 10, the first comprehensive official statement on postwar reemployment appeared in the public press in a report made by War Mobilization Director Byrnes. This statement gives even more point to the proposals offered in the following pages, in that the major unemployment problems soon to confront the nation seemed to be given short shrift. Director Byrnes asserted that only the "fears of timid people" stand in the way of continued employment at the present high levels and that "the present national income" should be maintained.

<sup>1</sup> Address of the retiring vice-president and chairman of Section L of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1943). The views expressed in this address are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of his institution.

At about the same time the public was advised that one million soldiers and four million war workers will lose their jobs soon after X-day, the day the Nazis are defeated. Putting millions of breadwinners back to work in peacetime occupations on short notice will be no mean job.

Furthermore, our present war-level national income of 160 billions can not be maintained after the war without an enormous monetary inflation which nobody wants. Going back to the 40-hour week and returning millions of youngsters, housewives and oldsters to school, housework and retirement will of themselves reduce the present national income very considerably. The proper postwar employment and income outlook should not be in terms of wartime over-employment and consequent over-production, but in terms of what

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