

Vitamins Better Not Alter Engine

to LOOK at . .

Did you ever see a vitamin? Anything so beneficial to the human race should be seen.

So "THINGS of science" has prepared a chart of Bread Vitamins in which samples of the B complex group of vitamins and the food minerals, calcium and iron phosphate are windowed behind cellophane. You can look at Thiamin, Riboflavin, Niacin, calcium and iron phosphate in this unit of THINGS of science.

But just as important to your knowledge is the careful explanation of these vitamins and their sources. What, for instance, is enriched bread? How does enriched yeast differ chemically from ordinary yeast? THINGS of science will tell you.

As in all units of THINGS of science, this unit contains specimens of scientific material to be examined, studied, and enjoyed. Museum-style legend cards are supplied for each science object; a brief, clear explanation of the entire contents is included with suggested experiments. This service is under the sponsorship of Science Service, the non-profit institution for the distribution of scientific information.

Just enclose 50c, sign and send in the coupon below and we will mail this Unit of THINGS of science to you postpaid.

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Please send me postpaid, on receipt of the 50c enclosed, your Unit on Bread Vitamins.

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ENGINEERING

► THE PROPOSAL that motorists stop out half the cylinders of their cars to save gasoline is not likely to prove popular.

First, the change-over is too expensive. Those who drive their cars only a few miles a day will not find the saving worth the expense, even though it only amounts to a few dollars for parts and a day's work for a mechanic—perhaps.

Second, for those who drive longer distances, the bumpiness of the riding will be decidedly unwelcome. And it may even damage the engine.

Third, it is not so much gasoline that we must save as rubber. There is enough gasoline, Secretary Ickes informs us, but not in the right places. The reason is lack of transportation. Nationwide gasoline rationing has been proposed, not to save gas but to save rubber.

Fourth, we have to save not only gasoline and rubber, but the automobiles as well. No new ones are to be had for non-essential purposes. And if the government finally has to requisition your car, it will want it in good condition, with quick starting, hill-climbing ability, smooth riding and all the rest.

The balance of an automobile engine is an extremely delicate matter to which years of engineering research have been devoted, first to the four, then to the six, and finally to the eight and twelve cylinder cars. It is a matter of delicate adjustments and intricate mathematics.

INVENTION

Primer Uses Lead Instead Of Mercury for Explosive

► A NEW primer for setting off explosives, whether commercial or military, that substitutes salts of lead for the now hard-to-get fulminate of mercury is the subject of patent 2,292,956, granted to J. D. McNutt and S. D. Ehrlich of New Haven, Conn. The lead salts used are lead hypophosphite and lead nitrate. To this are added trinitroresorcinol and sodium hydroxide. The ingredients react in water to form a double salt, lead styphnate and lead hypophosphite, which is stated to be a satisfactorily sensitive primer.

Rights in the invention are assigned to the Western Cartridge Company.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1942

Even a small change in engine type requires a whole new investigation. Vibration is not only disagreeable, but there is nothing that so quickly wears out a machine, engineers tell us. Where there is vibration, all parts must be made stronger and heavier.

The best way to conserve gasoline, tires and automobile, one authority suggests, is to use the car as little and as carefully as possible and abide by all the rules that have been already laid down. And above all, don't monkey with that delicately balanced mechanism, the engine.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1942

MEDICINE

Greaseless Cream Protects Worker's Hands and Arms

► NEW GREASELESS CREAM applied to a worker's hands, arms and under the nails, protects them from grime and some irritating substances, reports E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

The new cream is not medicinal, but forms an invisible protective film which at the end of the day can be washed off with soap and water, carrying the grime with it.

Skin disorders comprise two-thirds of all occupational diseases, according to the statistics of one major insurance company, and newcomers whose hands are not yet hardened are especially susceptible to them.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1942

MEDICINE

Sulfa Drugs Could Cause Wrong Military Decisions

► DECISIONS involving possible hazard to others should not be required from military officers and civilian executives who have too recently received doses of the sulfa drugs. These are known to cause mental confusion, which may persist for some time after treatment has ceased, it is reported (*Journal, American Medical Association, Aug. 22*).

Medical authorities of the Association of American Railroads have recommended that engine and train crew members be relieved of duty for 7 to 14 days after receiving treatment of this type.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1942