MEDICINE

# Foresee Spleen Banks

➤ SPLEEN BANKS, supplied by spleens removed from babies dying soon after birth, may in future join blood, bone, nerve and eye banks for medical use.

The spleen banks, if they can be established, will be for victims of atomic attack whose lives might be saved by transplant of a baby spleen into their bodies.

This prospect, though far from practical reality now, is suggested by research at the University of Chicago. Dr. Leon Jacobson, assistant dean of medicine there, has found he can save 50% of adult mice if, after killing doses of X-rays, he opens their bellies and drops into each belly the spleens from four baby mice.

With two spleens, 45% of the mice can be saved, but with only one extra spleen, only 4.2% of the mice can be saved.

Previously Dr. Jacobson showed that lead shielding of the spleen during X-ir-radiation would save 77% of mice. Preventing damage to the spleen, important site of blood formation in the body, could theoretically save many human atomic bomb victims. Wearing lead vests on the chance of an atomic attack is obviously not a practical method of defense. Spleen banks for saving surviving victims appear somewhat more practical.

Dr. Jacobson's latest findings were announced by the American Cancer Society which supports his research in the hope of finding ways to increase X-ray doses for destroying cancers without harming the patients.

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

CHEMISTRY

## Seek Fireproof Lubricants For High Temperature Jets

➤ LUBRICATING OILS that are more fireproof at the higher temperatures of jet plane engines are being sought by University of Cincinnati chemists cooperating with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

One discovery is that the metals used may by catalytic effect lower by as much as 200 degrees the temperature at which special new lubricants will burst into flame.

Dr. Charles E. Frank reported to the American Chemical Society meeting in Cleveland, that tetraethyl lead, anti-knock chemical, is in a class by itself in raising ignition temperatures of oil.

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

NUTRITION

## Gather Wild Greens for Vitamin-Packed Salad

➤ GATHER WILD greens while your garden grows and fresh vegetables in market are still fairly costly. Like cultivated greens, the wild ones growing along roadsides and even sometimes on the front lawn furnish both vitamins and minerals as well as the appetite appeal of new and often tangy flavor.

First of the wild greens to come are dandelions. Also available at this season, and in fact at all seasons since it is an evergreen, is watercress. Check with your local health department about its safety, however, as in some localities the water it grows in might be polluted.

Besides these two greens, housewives may be able to serve, as a change from spinach and lettuce, stinging nettle, marsh marigold, dock, milkweed, chicory, wild onion, lamb's quarter, summer mustard, pokeweed, sorrel and purslane or pursley.

All members of the wild carrot family should be avoided. This includes Queen Anne's lace and other related plants with dissected, leafy foliage, having white or yellow umbrella-like flowering and possessing a strong odor when crushed. Stems and leaves of plants with woody stems should also be avoided.

Only the tender young leaves of plants should be selected for eating. By the time the plants are in flower their flavor will be too strong. The greens, like those you buy at the market, should be thoroughly washed and all imperfect parts discarded. Young crisp leaves are nice for salad, but these wild greens can also be cooked and served like spinach or chard and served with butter or a sauce.

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

BOTANY

## Top New U. S. Marigold Is Available to Readers

➤ NEW THREE-INCH marigold blossoms, fully double and chrysanthemum-like, bring refreshing color to the garden. Seed of this Glitters marigold, an All-America flower winner for 1951, can now be obtained from SCIENCE SERVICE.

Close relative of the new Glitters marigold is Limelight, an All-America selection in 1940. A good trick is to plant in your garden several rows of the smaller but lovely Limelight marigold in front of the Glitters, which grow 30 to 50 inches tall. When they bloom, you will undoubtedly be pleased with both.

No one variety is best everywhere and no one variety, no matter how good, is best liked by all gardeners. So each gardener must try the new, but play safe with the tried and true, in finding what suits him best.

Corn, tomato, onion, squash and cucumbers are the only hybrid vegetables produced commercially in the United States today. Scientists have licked the problem of producing some hybrid seeds, but those of tomato and cucumber must still be produced by laborius hand-pollination. Only limited quantities are available, but they offer a higher yield.

Seeds of the Glitters and Limelight marigolds, and of two cucumber varieties, one an old stand-by and the other a good hybrid, have been collected for you by SCIENCE SERVICE, available for the nominal sum of 50 cents, in the current unit of monthly "THINGS of science" service. Grow them yourself to see whether you prefer the old or the new. Just write SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for the 1951 seeds kit.

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951