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EXPERTS STUDY
ELECTROCULTURE

U. S. Scientists Doubt
Claims That Electricity
Aids Crops

WASHINGTON (AP)—Electroculture, a method of raising crops by electricity, has commanded the attention lately of European scientists. Substantial claims have been made for it in England and a German experimenter Herr Pritsche asserts that with wooden posts 25 feet high, carrying magnetic plates, he has attracted electric currents from the atmosphere and conducted them to wires into the earth, where they stimulate the roots of growing plants.

Young growths, Herr Pritsche is quoted as saying, are better able to withstand the attacks of parasites when grown by electroculture. He declares he has secured a fuller yield of sugar beets, earlier maturity, a better aroma and a higher percentage of sugar.

American agricultural scientists, however, do not share his enthusiasm over the innovation. No federal experimenters have been able to discover any definite plant benefits from electricity, by application of electric current, either in growth or productivity, and the process remains of no recognized importance in farm industry in this country.

"There is an indication of a slight increase in the yield of wheat," says G. N. Collins, chief of federal biological investigations, "when it is grown under a positively charged network of electric wires, but the observed increase is well within the experimental error of field trials. The use of electrocultural methods in their present state of development as a practical means of increasing the yield of crops in this country is not recommended."

Such an aerial network has been used to no particular avail on government experimental farms in Arlington, country, Virginia, because of difficulty in controlling the drift of electric current in an open field and the natural variation of soil fertility over a large expanse of land, scientists now conduct the experiment in department of agriculture laboratories.

"At the end of several experiments with various plants," Collins declares, "we find treated plants sometimes growing better than the others, or as often 'lee versa,' and always with an inconsistency that neither proves nor disproves the theory."

English scientists make positive claims that electric current, either in the air or the soil, has notably increased both plant yield and growth.

Collins is interested in the English experiments with electricity which is said to lighten plow draft. A generator, carried on the tractor and so attached to the midboard and counter as to cause a continuous current, is declared to make the plow run more easily. It is believed the current produces a thin film of moisture on the midboard, causing the earth to lose perceptible adhesion.

Recent reports of a plow invented in this country that generates an electric current to kill weeds at once, change the color of the soil and started by several days the period of seed germination, are said by government experts to contain so little scientific data that a correct delineation of actual performance is impossible.

Herr Pritsche declares that under electroculture a crop of winter barley and oats has been reaped in the middle of July this year, the

"Wife Swapping"
Revealed; Death
of Man Result

OAKLAND, Cal., Sept. 27. (AP)—One man was dead and another man, two women and an infant, were to all have today during the investigation of a sordid story embracing illicit love affairs, "wife swapping" and odd parties.

Wendell Baxter was the dead man. Those in jail were Foster O. Lovenson, his wife, Mildred and Baxter's wife, Mrs. Jessie Baxter, who took her infant child to jail with her.

The story told the police was that the families lived across the street from each other and enjoyed parties together. Things progressed, it was said, to the point that "wife-swapping" was agreed to.

Lovenson said this state of affairs continued until he remonstrated with his wife and they agreed to continue being friendly with the Baxters but stop the parties.

Sunday night Lovenson said Mrs. Baxter went to his house and told him his wife was with Baxter. Lovenson said he investigated and that a fist fight started between himself and Baxter during the course of which Baxter fell dead.

The Oakland autopsy physician refused to issue a statement until after an examination of Baxter's body.

YES, HE'S A SCOT

HOBOKEN, N. J.—William Gray, steam cutter, is in the home-grow voluntarily to avoid extravagance. He walked into the police station, said he had been on a bit of a spree and desired to be locked up ten to spend a legacy that was due. He expected to be normal in a day or so and bank the legacy. Williams is a Scot.

Denmark so appreciates her poets that she places them on her civil list and pays them a regular salary from the government.

ground prepared ahead, and new seeds sown which are sprouting well. Thus a second harvesting may be expected at the end of September or the beginning of October.

Wire and soy beans are also being cultivated by this method.



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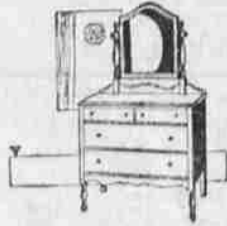
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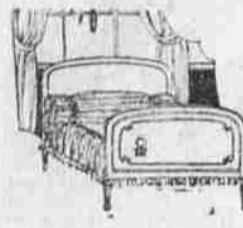
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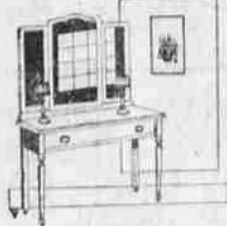
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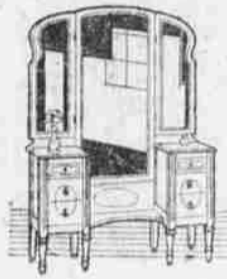
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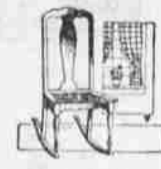


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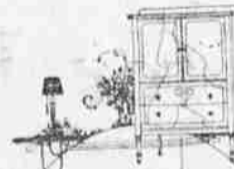
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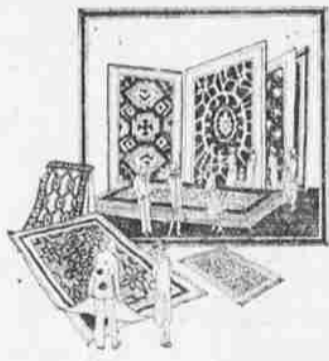
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