Czech Plastic Formula May Help Contact Lenses

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT

A resurgence of interest in a plastic developed in Czechoslovakia several years ago soon may mean more comfortable contact lenses and dentures for many Americans.

About 18 months ago an idle patent on a polymer called Hydron held by a Czech doctor was "rediscovered" by an American company specializing in combing through dusty corporate files for unused ideas and arranging licensing agreements with other firms interested in putting them to work. The patent company got so excited about Hydron that it picked up the license itself and became a manufacturing firm.

Hydron looks and behaves like most other plastics until you put it in water or any aqueous solution. Then it becomes very soft and elastic, but without losing its shape. Let it dry off and it hardens again. It is also inert and fully compatible with human tissue.

Dentures made with it offer greater comfort and increased adhesion, while Hydron contact lenses it is reported, become so soft and pliable that they conform exactly to the shape of the cornea and eliminate the rough feeling of conventional "hard" contacts.

Dentures lined with Hydron are already available in the New York area and distribution is expected to be broadened soon. But the contact lenses won't be out until more eye doctors are thoroughly convinced of their merit, according to the manufacturer.

BETTER HOSE—With some easing of the drought conditions that have plagued parts of the country, it's a good bet that homeowners will be watering their lawns and gardens more frequently this summer.

The days of just any old garden hose are past, however. The public is demanding extra features in hose, just as it seeks them in buying autos, homes or clothing. Amerace Corporation's Swan Rubber Division, which produces hundreds of miles of garden hose daily, reports that it has licked one annoying hose problem by making a reinforced vinyl type that it says is never hard to coil, and stays flexible even in the coldest weather.

An example of just how sophisticated garden hose can be, the company is turning out a type that will retain water under as high as 500 pounds per square inch pressure, even on the hottest days, meaning you can turn it off at the nozzle without fear of a break. Still another type, reinforced with tire cord and designed to resist heat, chemicals, ozone and tearing, comes with a 20-year guarantee.

THINGS TO COME—A utility timer that turns appliances on and off automatically at pre-selected times and repeats the performance each day without resetting . . . A nylon mesh bag called the Dolphin Duffle" provides a place for small fry to store wet tub toys until the next time you manage to get them into the bath. Plastic holders with suction cups attach the bag to the wall just above the soap dish or tub rim . . . A fully equipped fire trailer that turns any vehicle into a mobile fire-fighting unit. It's available in capacities of 50 to 200 gallons and provides up to 45 minutes of full-action fire-fighting time. It's suction pump can draw more than 100 gallons per minute from ponds, streams or pools at 70 to 100 pounds pressure.

ENERGY TO BURN—Here's some good news about the world's future energy needs and how they'll be supplied. Apparently there's plenty of unused energy right here in our own country, much of it concentrated in the state of Colorado.

Researchers at The Shell Shale Corp. say latest geological surveys show Colorado oil shale deposits contain as much as 1½ trillion barrels of oil—nearly five times all the known petroleum reserves in the world.

The state, which is the scene of the nation's first commercial oil shale venture, also is one of the world's leading producers of uranium, tin and molybdenum.

'THERE IS A TIDE'—French engineers are taking deep bows for an accomplishment that the world's electrical geniuses have been striving to achieve for half a century — a plant that will convert the energy created by the rise and fall of ocean tides into low-cost electricity.

This summer, stretching across the narrow Rance river in Brittany, the world's first large-scale tidal power project—with a capacity of 240,000 kilowats—will begin to supply the surrounding country with power at a price comparable to traditional European sources.

Tidal power is a natural force claimed to be second only to the sun itself as an accessible power source. Power planners from all over the world are visiting the project and exclaiming "Vive La France!" And the proud state-owned French utility that built it has set up a huge billboard offering to take tourists on guided tours in any of four languages at 20 cents a head.

Hampton Players Moliere Show Will Open Friday Night

"The Imaginary Invalid," will open Friday night at the Hampton Playhouse, 100 Wall St., Redondo Beach, at 8:30.

Under the direction of Neal Reck, who also directed "The Boyfriend," the Moliere comedy, will continue for five weeks, Fridays and Saturdays, through June 25.

The cast includes Mac Perdue, Edna Perdue, Gay Kleimenhagen, Karen Kraegel, Marilyne McCormick, Peggy Gohl, Phil Harris, Reg Friend, Neal Reck, Michael Katcher, and Bob Thaler.

Comedy to Be Offered By Chapel

Next production at Chapel Theater will be "Nobody Loves An Albatross" which will open June 3 for a five-weekend run until July 2.

The Ronald Alexander comedy is under the direction of Warren Lavender of Torrance.

The cast of 13 is headed by Fred West, as Nat a television writer, and Celeste Clinton as the romantic lead. Janetta Held of Torrance will appear as Nat's daughter, Diane, and Ellen Vogle, also of Torrance, as the housekeeper, Sara.

OTHERS IN the cast include Billie Galleran, Earl Meredith, Mike O'Neil, Lynda Scarline, Alan Roberts, Randy Alper, William Sullivan, Phil Edmundson of Lomita, and Roger Lowe.