

William Hore Gives Talk on Hydroponics

Some of the advantages of hydroponic farming over soil farming were discussed by William Hore, Junior chemistry student, at the last meeting of the Chemistry Club. Bill was formerly connected with the Hydroponics Farming Division of the Army of Occupation in Japan.

Nutriculture (or Hydroponics as this science is more often called) is simply growing plants without soil. Ways have been found to provide synthetically the nutrients which a plant extracts from the earth. These nutrients are simply water-soluble salts of 11 elements, among them nitrogen, potassium, calcium and magnesium. It was discovered that all these elements could be provided in their proper proportions by dissolving certain inorganic salts in water and allowing the roots of the plants to stand in this solution.

A bed of gravel or sand can be used to provide support for the plants and the bed flooded with the nutrient solution. The salts used produced commercially as fertilizers for soil farms and so are cheap and readily available. Among them are such well-known salts as gypsum, saltpeter, urea, borax and epsom salts.

So now you won't be surprised when you see vegetables, flowers, shrubs or even small trees growing up out of the gravel. But the advantage of nutriculture that is most important to the average person is, of course, *no sand in the spinach.*