

Novel Inventions Follow Course by Mr. Signeur

By DAN KAY

When Mr. Austin V. Signeur introduced his Chemistry 50-51 class to the section on "Patents and Trademarks," his purpose was to give the Chemistry majors, some of whom may be prospective inventors, an insight into the methods of preparing reports for the Bureau of Patents. Now that the course is over, however, it appears that an even more important result has been the invention of several interesting chemical devices, in addition to a multitude of more novel material.

In order to give his students

practice in preparing patent reports, Mr. Signeur required each of them to submit a complete report, including diagram and description, on some original invention. A few of the more thought-provoking ideas were a method for producing non-fading dyes, as proposed by William Hartigan; a laboratory refrigerator for fractional crystallization, by Anthony Misercola; and a small light-weight cooling system using bottled carbon dioxide, devised by Francis Cyran.

Some members of this versatile Senior class, however, chose to edify their mythical Patent Office with diagrams of non-chemical inventions. For instance, William Strachen has devised a screwdriver, fully equipped with a light so that you can find your target in the dark. However, he doesn't say how you are to go about finding the light.

Better mousetrap? Daniel Kay's gadget, outfitted with a brace of wires which simultaneously smack the unsuspecting rodent on the noggin, does everything but escort the mouse from his lair.

A Car Stopper

There will be no more embarrassment at the dinner table with the inventions of Karl Geist and Leo Moser. Both have come up with revolutionary soup plates which eliminate the confusion always attendant upon the quest of those last few drops of soup. Geist's brainstorm has a spring under one side of the plate which, as the soup is consumed, will automatically tilt the bowl to the desired angle for easy procurement of the last drop. The Moser idea features a slanted bottom which causes the soup to flow to one side of the plate by force of gravity. (You should see their diagrams!)

Lewis Dahl has a device to be attached to any automobile to help the driver stop on slippery pavements—an intricate mechanism which spreads sand in front of the tire. Raises holy havoc with the tire, but stops the car!

A double-barreled invention by which medicine is painlessly inhaled through a cigarette has been produced by Lee Oakes, who confidently expects it to be a boon to smokers who dislike taking medicine.

These are only a few of the many varied inventions turned in by the class, which goes to prove something or other. Chemistry 50-51 leads us to have the utmost confidence in the mechanical future of America.