as delta-m, it is too small to make a contribution to the mass density of the universe. Otherwise, its contribution could have been very significant, as suggested earlier by Cowsik and McClelland[8]. These findings also point to the need for going beyond the standard model of elementary particles. The particle physicists have already started going beyond the standard model of elementary particles some years ago for several reasons, including the possibility of mass for neutrino.

R. Davis of USA and M. Koshiba of Japan share half of this year's Nobel prize for physics for their work on neutrinos described above.

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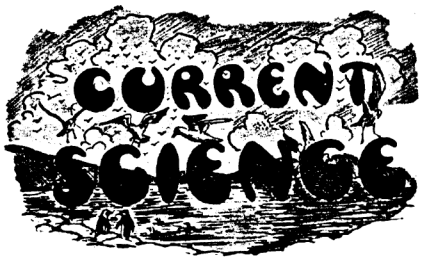
FROM THE ARCHIVES



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"Pending clarification of these and other obscure points the Forest Research Institute has decided to withdraw its publication, 'Ascu'—A wood preservative, *Indian Forest Records* (New Series), *Utilisation*, Vol. I, No. 6, and to postpone its re-issue in a revised form until the results of further research and adequate service tests are available." This announcement is contained in a note issued by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, under the signature of Mr L. Mason, President of the Institute.

This very unusual procedure of formally withdrawing a scientific publication originally issued under official authority raises a number of points which are not rendered any simpler by the fact that the process in question is covered by a patent which has been commercially exploited in India and, it is learnt is under active consideration even outside. When reviewing the publication '*Ascu*'—*A Wood Preservative* (*Curr. Sci.*, 7, No. 3, p. 141), attention was drawn, in particular to two facts; first on the mass of data and a century of experience which the older creosote and zinc chloride processes had behind them and which 'Ascu' on account of its infancy could not possibly have, and secondly, on the lack of a bibliography of relevant literature in the publication. And although the Foreword to the *Record*, explicitly warned that it was "too early to pronounce a definite or final opinion on its merits or limitations", it must be confessed that this withdrawal was entirely unexpected. . . .

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The spate of comment and enquiry that has reached us since the publication of the article on this subject in the previous number of *Current Science* is indicative of the widespread interest taken in and the rather nebulous position created by the withdrawal of *Ascu Record* by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. The relative facts can be stated in simple terms. When wood preservation was not part of the normal technique of timber utilisation in this country, Ascu was brought into being at Dehra Dun. The new process was considered to be of such promise that the Railway Board—one of the largest timber consumers in the country—appointed a Committee presided over by Sir C. V. Raman to examine the claims of Ascu. This Committee opined that the data then available, justified further experimentation. In the meantime, although the Forest Research Institute in their publications indicated some of the points requiring further elucidation, they definitely and even enthusiastically advocated the adoption of the process. Indeed, such was their confidence that so lately as in 1937 Sir Gerald Trevor, then President of the Forest Research Institute, in an article "Wood Preservative in India—Creosote *vs.* Ascu" summed up that in a choice between the two "the answer is in favour of Ascu every time"; this is very high praise to a wood preservative. . . .