56-54 ENVIRONMENT
10 FT. YR.

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POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs) made in the U.S, may be contaminated by a toxic chemical that has previously been found in PCBs made in France and Germany. In a paper delivered to the American Chemical Society meeting in Boston, April 10, August Curley, of the Environmental Protection Agency laboratory at Chamblee, Georgia, reported that he and co-workers had found a contaminant, suspected to be tetrachlorodibenzofuran, in PCBs from Monsanto Chemical Company, sole U.S. manufacturer of the chemical. Tetrachlorodibenzofurans are highly toxic and are believed to cause birth defects. If furans are in fact in the Monsanto product, it is at a low level, less than one part per million. The French and German products have been found to contain five and twenty parts per million respectively. Any amount of contamination, however, is cause for concern; PCBs have been found in the past few years to be widely distributed in the environment.