

## MOSQUITOES THRIVE IN WARM WEATHER

Mosquitoes like hot weather.

Observations in the salt marshes and woodlands near Barnegat, N.J., according to the New Jersey Statistical Bulletin, prove that the hotter it gets the more active they become.

"Below 60 degrees Fahrenheit," says the bulletin, "their activities decrease rapidly and almost stop below 50 degrees.

"A temperature between 68 and 77 degrees has the greatest accelerating influence upon the rate of their activities. The influence of wind upon the rate of alighting becomes apparent with a wind velocity between 4 and 8 miles an hour, while the rate of alighting with a wind velocity above 8 miles an hour is constant in spite of increasing temperature, so that wind velocity overcomes the influence of temperature. The number of mosquitoes alighting increases in almost linear fashion with the increase of relative humidity up to 85 per cent; from 85 to 95 per cent relative humidity the numbers alighting remain nearly constant. The percentage caught of those alighting, which indicates degree of general activity, increases rapidly with the relative humidities below 75 per cent; it remains constant from 75 to 85 per cent relative humidity and decreases slowly from 85 to 95 per cent relative humidity.

"Extremely high humidities are detrimental to the general activities of the insects. Higher light intensities seem to stimulate the activities of these species of mosquitoes. Previous precipitation seems to influence the vigor of biting and troublesomeness of these species of mosquitoes. Prolonged showers and heavy rainfall decrease the numbers of mosquitoes on the wing."

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## COST OF INHERITED BLINDNESS HIGH

At least 44 eye defects are hereditary. At least eight of them are apt to produce practical blindness. From 5,000 to 7,500 persons in the United States now are blind from hereditary defects and their care costs more than \$2,000,000 a year, it is estimated.

These figures are obtained from the report of the committee on hereditary blindness of the American Medical Association, which has studied the subject for the past three years.

The committee suggests a legal requirement that persons afflicted with hereditary eye defects be required to give bond at the time of marriage sufficient to cover the cost of caring for possible children who might become burdens on the community.

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## NEW INSTRUMENT MAY LOCATE OLD TOMBS

Tombs exceeding in splendor that of Tutankhamen may be detected in the Valley of Kings by the use of the Eotvos torsion gravity balance, which detects small irregularities in the gravitational pull of the earth. The instrument has been used successfully in detecting oil and ore deposits, among them the largest known body of iron ore in Russia. Two English scientists, E.H. Rayner and T. Smith, suggest that such a large cavity as the tomb of Tutankhamen would reveal its presence, although buried under many feet of rock and sand.

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