

## ZOOLOGY

**Game Important Industry**

Run your game animals and your livestock the same way. This is the advice given to New Mexico sportsmen and ranchers by J. Stokley Ligon of the U. S. Biological Survey. The once abundant wild life of the Southwest can be restored on the same basis as the deflated cattle industry by scientific range management and control of predatory animals, Mr. Ligon contends in his report on the wild life of New Mexico recently published by the state game commission.

"As an asset to the Southwest, wild life in the future can be made equal to a stabilized livestock industry," said Mr. Ligon. "It is one of the most valuable crops that can be produced; yet it has and continues to be the most recklessly abused. For the same reason that the Southwest is the leading year-round open range cattle and sheep country in the land, it is one of the best year-round game sections. The varying topography of the state ranging from plains at less than 3,000 feet to mountain peaks at 13,600 feet results in the widespread distribution of more than fifteen distinctive game animals, ten species of resident land game birds, the many species of fish and a great variety of non-game birds."

It is man's domestic animals rather than his shot-gun which have nearly exterminated the native wild life in the Southwest, says Mr. Ligon. In the early days of free range the country was so heavily overstocked with cattle that the forage was badly depleted. This resulted in starvation for the game animals and birds and loss of the protective shelter of browse. While the stock suffered as much in a few years by these methods as the wild animals, the latter were able to find natural refuges in the rugged mountainous areas into which the stock could not penetrate. For this reason big game is still found all over the state except in the Navajo country which was completely hunted out before state game laws became effective. Deer, turkey and quail are now the principal residence game. Mr. Ligon recommends the restocking of depleted areas with native game, reintroducing such exterminated species as buffalo, elk and sage grouse, the establishment of refuges and the enforcement of strict game laws.

Science News-Letter, February 4, 1928

## PHYSICS

**A Non-Magnetic Sailor**

JAMES P. AULT

Until he was twenty-four, Captain Ault had never seen the ocean. But since then, he has been making up for lost time. By 1931, when he will return from his next cruise, he will just have passed the half century mark, and he will have sailed one of the strangest ships afloat more than 200,000 miles through all the seven seas!

Captain Ault is the commander of the Carnegie Institution's non-magnetic ship, "Carnegie." This is the boat that was made with a minimum of iron in its hull and fittings, so that it could make accurate measurements of the earth's magnetism in all parts of the world. In May, when it again sails down the Potomac on the start of a three-year cruise under Captain Ault's command, it will carry in its scientific staff not only magnetic experts, but biologists as well, for the next expedition will be the most ambitious yet. On this trip, Captain Ault will find his time full enough, for not only does he navigate the ship and command the crew, but he also personally directs and takes part in the scientific observations, and the computations that are made right on shipboard.

Olathe, Kansas, claims him as a native, and Baker University, at Baldwin, Kansas, is his *alma mater*. In 1905 he made his first ocean trip on the Survey ship "Bache." With one brief exception, while war work claimed his attention, Captain Ault has commanded this ship since its third voyage began in 1914.

Science News-Letter, February 4, 1928

## ANTHROPOLOGY

**India Has "Sin-Goat"**

The ancient Hebrew custom of loading the sins of the people on a scape-goat, which bore them off into the wilderness, has a modern parallel in a certain district in central India. It is not sins, however, which the modern scape-goat is required to carry off, but smallpox.

When an outbreak of smallpox occurs in a village, the inhabitants resort to the ceremony of "Nikasi." A female goat is purchased by public subscription, and is adorned with the particular types of ornaments usually affixed to the image of a goddess. The goat is then apparently looked upon as an incarnation of the goddess of the disease. The animal is supposed to remove the epidemic as she is passed on from village to village until she reaches her own temple, or is devoured by wild beasts on the way.

Science News-Letter, February 4, 1928

## MEDICINE

**Plane Ride Cures Disease**

Commercial aeroplane companies will probably be besieged with juvenile passengers if latest reports from Germany are confirmed.

A Charlottenburg aeroplane owner, according to the German correspondent of the British medical journal, *Lancet*, recently had occasion to take his two young daughters on a short trip by air while they were suffering from whooping cough. After the journey the children's coughing fits were so alleviated that the physician in attendance advised the father to take the girls up with him again. Within a short time they were completely cured, whereas the baby left behind on the expeditions into higher regions ran the full harrowing whooping cough course.

The children remained in the air about an hour each time and reached altitudes as high as 10,000 feet. It has been suggested that aeroplane companies place planes at the disposal of health authorities for experiment on a larger scale with this unexpected light on a vexing problem. Change of climate is known to be the best remedy for whooping cough, consequently it may sometimes be cheaper, it is pointed out, to have the small patients travel in an aeroplane than to have them spend weeks at the mountains or seaside.

Science News-Letter, February 4, 1928