

CONSERVATION

Elephant Hunting Is Expensive

THE SPORTSMAN with an appetite for the biggest of all big game, the African elephant, must now pay a pretty stiff fee for the privilege of shooting one. In Tanganyika territory the license for killing an elephant costs \$250. In Uganda, between Lake Victoria and Lake Albert, the license costs considerably less: \$50 for the first elephant, \$100 for the second, and a limit of two elephants to any individual hunter in one year.

Under this licensing system, the yearly shoot may reach a mark as high as 225 animals. This may look formidable, but when offset against an estimated elephant population of 20,000 to 25,000 in these regions, it is believed that the interests of conservation are being reasonably served.

The sanctuaries for wild animals contain numerous elephants which seem to realize that they are quite safe there. Nevertheless in times of drought they frequently leave them to seek food and water elsewhere. If they turn to cultivated regions, they can in a short time cause great damage to crops, and measures must be undertaken to stop them.

It has been noticed that the elephant herds, when about to start on a raid, are generally preceded by old bulls who act as scouts and later lead the herd to the cultivated lands. Taking advantage of this peculiarity, the authorities instruct the official elephant hunters to attack these scouts and kill as many of them as possible. The result is that the herd, deprived of its leaders, abandons the raid, and later avoids a territory where losses were sustained.

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PSYCHIATRY

Forced Righthand Training Causes Mental Limp

CHANGING a normally lefthanded person into a righthanded one may cause a mental limp, Dr. Ira S. Wile of New York has discovered.

Just as an acquired physical limp may cause difficulty and fatigue because of the transfer of energy to unwonted muscles, so the transformation of lefthanded persons into righthanded ones produces an internal strain or mental limp. This psychic limp shows itself in

behavior disorders of varying degrees, such as illegible writing, mirror writing, difficulty in reading, stuttering, school failure, truancy, lying and stealing.

Allowing the lefthanded to return to the use of his left hand, which is more natural and normal for him, usually clears up the behavior difficulty. Generally this is done without discussing behavior with the patient.

Besides allowing the patient to use his left hand again, he is encouraged to use his right eye by reading and studying with a patch over the left eye. The close connection of the eye and hand on the same side, and the fact that books are made for people whose right eyes, like their right hands, are dominant, makes it more difficult for naturally lefthanded persons to learn to read, Dr. Wile explained. This education of the right eye was sufficient to correct the behavior disorder in some children without reverting to lefthandedness.

The world happens to be geared for righthanded people, who are in the majority. The lefthanded child, however, should not be made to feel inferior, but should be given extra assistance in adjusting himself to a righthanded world. This does not necessarily mean that he must learn to use his right hand.

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PHYSIOLOGY

Rattlesnake Poison Immunizes Its Victims

RATTLESNAKE poison and how it acts has been the subject of a series of dramatic experiments by Dr. J. Marcowitz, Dr. H. E. Essex and Dr. F. C. Mann, of the Mayo Foundation. They found that animals that have recovered from rattlesnake poison are immune for several months thereafter. The immunity seems to reside in the blood fluid, rather than in the blood corpuscles; for blood corpuscles separated from the fluid will swell up when exposed to the venom, but if left in the fluid they are protected.

In the course of researches on the much-debated question of just what is the best rattlesnake-bite cure, Prof. Albert M. Reese, of the University of West Virginia, made the interesting discovery that rats are much more resistant to its action than are men.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Counterfeiting "Racket" In Germano-Roman Capital

CCOUNTERFEITING was a "good racket" in the estimation of the underworld of Imperial Rome. This is evidenced by a find in the outskirts of Trier, Germany, reported by Dr. Paul Steiner, director of the Provincial Museum of that city.

The find consists of a number of clay moulds of various Roman coins, dating from the period between 192 and 212 A.D. In two of them the counterfeit coins were still sticking.

The coins are known as false, partly because the moulds were found in an obscure corner on the edge of the city, instead of near its center where an authorized mint might naturally be expected. Furthermore, a chemical analysis disclosed the fact that the pieces are made not of silver but of a pale bronze containing a considerable mixture of lead.

Reviewing previous finds of counterfeiters' dens in Roman digs, Dr. Steiner remarks that the followers of this particular "racket" must have found it more profitable to operate in the provinces than in the capital. Not one such find has ever been made in Italy, he says, whereas counterfeit coin caches have been found in 26 places in France, 13 in Germany, three or more in Egypt and one each in Switzerland, Austria, Belgium and Tunis. Evidently the counterfeiters found "shoving the queer" an easier job among the less sophisticated frontiersmen; or possibly they may have victimized the ignorant barbarians of the lands outside the Empire.

Besides the unauthorized copies of good coin in base metal, Dr. Steiner states, there have been found many specimens of officially authorized coinage in cheaper alloys. These were "token coins," issued as modern paper money is issued, with the credit of the Empire behind them. Such representatives of gold coins were often made of gold-plated silver or bronze, and substitutes for silver coins were made of bronze plated with silver.

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E FIELDS

ETHNOLOGY

Hengist and Horsa Still On German Husetops

HENGIST and Horsa, mythical leaders and heroes of the Germanic tribes that invaded Britain after the withdrawal of the Romans, still have their monuments on the village husetops in the part of Germany that was the jump-off place for a goodly share of the Teutonic tribes.

The peasant houses in the villages of East Frisia, like those in many other parts of Germany, have the gable-beams run up and crossed above the rooftops, the projecting ends being carved into more or less realistic figures of horses' heads. Elsewhere in Germany this is simply a traditional practice and the wooden images have no special significance.

But in some of the villages of East Frisia they have personal names. They are called Hengst and Hors.

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PHYSIOLOGY-PSYCHIATRY

Gland Disorders Make "Problem Children"

EVIDENCE that disorders of the endocrine glands may be associated with behavior problems has been found by Dr. Allan W. Rowe, director of the Evans Memorial for Clinical Research and Preventive Medicine in Boston.

It is not possible to state now whether the glandular disorder is the cause of the behavior, Dr. Rowe said. But the two conditions occur together so often that some relation seemingly exists between them.

Dr. Rowe studied a group of 650 children, of whom 104 were reported, by physician or social worker or parent, to have shown disorder behavior. Of these 104, nearly two-thirds had some functional disorder of the endocrine glands. The pituitary gland was involved in 70 per cent. of the cases and the thyroid in most of the rest.

The remaining third of the behavior problem children had no glandular

trouble, but suffered from various neurological disorders, principally injuries or disease of the brain and spinal cord or, in a few cases, from severe infection.

The one feature outside of the behavior problem which was common to all the children, was extensive evidence of marked disorders of metabolism.

Glandular treatment improved the behavior as well as the physical condition of some of the children suffering from glandular disorders. Dr. Rowe stated that this improvement in behavior might have been the result of the treatment or merely a coincidental improvement due to other, at present unknown, factors.

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MARINE BIOLOGY

Dose of Copper Makes Oysters Stop Roving

YOUNG oysters will not forsake a roving life and settle down to business until they have had a taste of copper.

This has been discovered through researches of H. F. Prythearch of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, who has been investigating the life history of oysters as a part of the government's drive to make oysters more abundant again.

When an oyster first hatches from the egg, it lives for a couple of weeks as a free-swimming larva, propelled through the water by the lashings of a multitude of hair-like processes, called cilia. This free-swimming period in their lives secures the wide distribution of the oyster young.

At about two weeks of age it is ripe to settle down. But it does not do so unless it receives its dose of copper. Lacking that, it continues to swim aimlessly about, becomes prematurely old and dies a prey to swarming microorganisms.

If it gets its few molecules of copper, its cilia cease to wave, and it settles to the bottom. There it protrudes its one foot, and proceeds to crawl laboriously about for a while. Finally it extrudes a little glue-like stuff, plants one of its two shells squarely in that, and thereafter is a fixed and solid citizen of the oyster commonwealth.

It takes very little copper to make an oyster larva quit swimming and adopt the sessile life of the adult form. One part of copper in fifty millions of water will turn the trick.

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ETHNOLOGY

Seminole Indians Sing For Scientific Record

SEMINOLE Indians of Florida, noted for their long-time policy of having as little as possible to do with white men, have at last sung some of their songs for scientific record. This is an unprecedented event in Seminole history. The songs were sung for Miss Frances Densmore, special collaborator for the Bureau of American Ethnology.

In a wire received by Science Service, from Miami, Miss Densmore said:

"I have today recorded two series of old Seminole songs. One series comprises songs of the green corn dance, the most important ceremony of the tribe. It is very old and is still held as thanksgiving for the ripening of the first corn each year. The songs were recorded in the Seminole village near here, by Charlie Billie, who is the leader of singing and dancing in this ceremony. The second series comprises songs for success in hunting.

"Very few Seminoles understand English, and they will not try to talk to white people. These Indians are independent and support themselves largely by hunting alligators and other animals in the Everglades and by selling hides. Their wants are few, as they live exactly like their ancestors. Native doctors treat the sick with remedies revealed in dreams. The Seminoles sing only in connection with ceremonies, music for them having a useful purpose in bringing about a desired end."

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PHYSICS

Newspaper Baked To Test Permanence

IF a piece of newsprint paper can pass the test of being baked for 72 hours at the boiling point of water, it is suitable for printing permanent library editions.

This test was devised by the Bureau of Standards of the U. S. Department of Commerce at the request of newspaper publishers. The results indicated that papers today can be printed to last if special paper, containing a minimum of impurities, is used.

After being subjected to the severe heat test, the recommended papers showed little loss in folding strength.

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