

## PSYCHOLOGY

**Special School Helps "Bad" Children Become "Good"**

"**B**AD" children, victims of a peculiar brain disease called encephalitis which sometimes turns even the best-behaved little boys and girls into "bad" ones, have learned to be "good" again after staying at the special school for them at the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Dr. Earl D. Bond and Dr. Kenneth E. Appel of the department of nervous and mental diseases of the hospital have just reported. Attempts to treat such children in their own or foster homes have been generally unsuccessful.

Forty-six out of forty-eight of these children were able to learn by experience and to improve while in the hospital, these physicians stated in their recently published book describing the first six years' experience at the school.

Seven of twenty children discharged from the hospital school were able to keep up their improvement after returning to their homes.

"The children being kept in the school show great promise and most of them are being kept, not because they have not improved, but because they are doing so well that it seems worth while to make their chances in the community still better," the report states.

Temper tantrums, stealing and lying, and running away from home are some

of the common forms of bad behavior shown by these children after the attack of encephalitis.

This brain disease has sometimes been called "sleeping" sickness, because its victims are often unusually drowsy and fall asleep at odd times during the day, and are hard to awaken. It is not the same as African or true sleeping sickness which is caused by a germ. Very mild attacks of encephalitis may not be recognized, although behavior disturbances follow the mild as well as the severe attacks.

*Science News Letter, August 8, 1931*

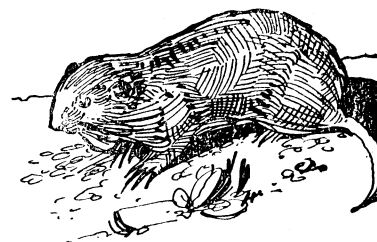
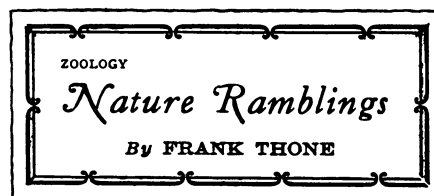
## ZOOLOGY

**First Known Hybrid of Elk and Moose Is Killed**

**T**HE FIRST known specimen of a cross between a moose and an elk was recently killed in the Deerlodge National Forest, in Bear Gulch.

The animal, known to United States forest rangers as "the elk with the funny horns," associated with elk and grazed like them, but had a body and horns that were half moose and half elk. He was first seen on the Boulder Creek District of the Deerlodge Forest when about three years old, judging from his appearance. When killed, the animal weighed 1,100 pounds.

*Science News Letter, August 8, 1931*



Gopher

**H**OT summer weather doesn't seem to discourage the industrious gopher, that stumpy-tailed relative of the squirrel and the rat that is as thorough-going a miner as the mole and if possible even more of a nuisance to have in your lawn or garden. For one thing, the mole is a worm-hunter, and if he ruins your strawberry bed or asparagus patch that is your hard luck, but not a deliberate sin on his part. But the gopher is after the vegetables. Like most of his rodent kin, he is mainly herbivorous, though at times he is a troublesome killer of young chickens.

In addition to the mischief he causes by direct raid, he piles up huge disfiguring dumps of earth. If his operations chance to take him into a polo field or any other place where horses are ridden hard, a two-cent gopher may ruin a pony worth several hundreds before you could say "scat." Gopher holes broke a leg for many a cow-pony in the old days of the open range.

There are a number of species of gophers, but they all look so much alike that their differences are of interest mainly to the professional zoologist. The animal known in the West as the striped gopher is often mistaken for a ground-squirrel, but is really a close cousin to the less conspicuously marked Eastern pocket-gopher. An Asiatic relative is known as "souslik."

One serious economic effect of gopher activities is felt in river areas subject to frequent flooding. Here the little animals burrow under or through the protective earthen levees, making them leaky and weak. In such places it is often found worth while to put a small bounty on their heads.

*Science News Letter, August 8, 1931*

# Simply Request It

With a two cent stamp to cover mailing cost and we shall be glad to send you the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER index for the past year, which has just been issued. (Vol. XVIII, July-Dec., 1930; Vol. XIX, Jan. June, 1931).

**B**UT WHILE you are writing, why not enclose 52 cents in stamps and get a SCIENCE NEWS LETTER binder—one that is easy to use and is as strong as steel. Cover material, leather finished heavy bookbinder's bristol. Costs 50c, post-paid anywhere in U. S. A. \$1.00 elsewhere. Cash in advance. Send order and remittance, with your request for index, to Librarian, SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 21st and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

the  
**BINDER**  
Costs  
50c  
Post-  
paid  
in  
U. S. A.