

7 GREAT SCIENTISTS

want to talk to you in your home

SCIENCE is absorbingly interesting. Scientists bring forth new points of view, new discoveries, new relationships of old discoveries, and thus they themselves are absorbingly interesting as human beings.

Men and women of intellectual curiosity would like to entertain many of these scientists, one by one, in their homes, but this is usually impracticable.

- 1 DR. ROBERT A. MILLIKAN, Nobel prize winner in physics, leader in scientific thought and head of the California Institute of Technology, speaks on "The Rise of Physics."
- 2 DR. JOHN C. MERRIAM, authority on the fossil animals and reptiles of western America, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, speaks on "The Record of the Rocks."
- 3 DR. EDWIN G. CONKLIN, Princeton University biologist, one of the world's greatest authorities on life processes, speaks on "The Mystery of Life."
- 4 DR. KARL T. COMPTON, eminent physicist, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, speaks on "Science and Engineering."
- **5** DR. LEO H. BAEKELAND, industrial chemist and one of America's industrial pioneers, inventor of bakelite, velox, etc., speaks on "Chemistry and Civilization."
- **6** DR. WILLIAM H. WELCH, of Johns Hopkins University, "Dean of American Medicine" speaks on "The Tubercle Bacillus."
- 7 DR. WILLIAM M. MANN, director of the National Zoological Park of the Smithsonian Institution, leading authority on animal life, speaks on "Our Animal Friends."

- A So Science Service, Inc., asked seven great scientists to make phonograph records on subjects which fired them with enthusiasm.
- **B** We asked Durium Products, Inc, to make a price on a set of seven such records which would be low enough to be attractive to purchasers. They did.
- We got portraits of the scientists.
 We had these portraits reproduced in photogravure process, each on a sheet of beautiful white gravure paper, size 81/2"x 9".
- D On the reverse side of each picture we printed a brief biography of the scientist, together with his complete speech as recorded on the record.
- Then we packed pictures and records in a compact mailing carton and found that they could be sold for \$3, postpaid. Seven recordings of seven great scientists with seven photogravure pictures, \$3. We invite your order—send \$3 to Science Service, Inc., Washington, D. C., and ask for a set of "GREAT SCIENTIST" RECORDS.



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Seals

HEN SEALS are mentioned, we normally think of one or two things: either of the carefully conserved herd on the Pribiloff Islands, or of the clever and appealing animals we see in circuses balancing things on their noses. But these are not the only seals in the world; vacationers on northern shores almost everywhere will catch glimpses of sleek, wet heads thrust out of the water, periscope-fashion: for seals are as curious as they are without fear when they are in the water.

The circus seals are of the subdivision of the seal clan known commonly as sea-lions. They are smaller than the fur seals, and their pelts are not valuable. Their homes are farther south for the most part; and the famous seal rocks of the Golden Gate, in California, are inhabited by sea-lions.

Seals in general show in a striking and curious way the effect of a watery environment on animal evolution. Hardly any vertebrate animal could be less like a fish in its fundamental structure than a seal, yet the seals have come to have streamlined bodies on the fish pattern, and have modified their hind feet into something very much like a fish's tail.

The seal's flippers, though they look more or less like fins, are none the less true feet, quite as much as are the feet of dogs and cats. The bones within them are the bones of thigh, lower leg, ankle, foot and five toes, all present and accounted for. The leg-bones are shortened and thickened, and the foot is broadened and flattened into a paddle shape. It is as though a human swimmer had put on a thick leather mitten to make his stroke more effective.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1932