

his offspring light-heartedly. Deprived of their protection, the modern mother approaches her task with the misgiving that the most trivial ineptitude may lay the foundations of a psychoneurosis."

In order that man may be saved from a sort of self-imposed extinction or social suicide, the child must be restored to his proper place in society, Dr. Charles believes. He must be regarded as a social asset, not as a burden.

Dr. Charles envisions for the future a non-acquisitive society in which the child from the age of three upwards would take his place as a useful contributing member. The educational system would no longer force mathematics on children who have nothing to measure, foreign languages on children who have no opportunities to use them for social intercourse, literary composition on children who have nothing to write about, and geography on children who have never travelled beyond the confines of one country.

Rather they would be trained, Montessori fashion, to look after their own needs, and later to contribute productively to welfare of society. Children and adults would share equally in the activities of both production and education, in Dr. Charles' future society.

The extra work and care necessary for babies and very young children would be compensated by a recognition of the creative possibilities presented by a new mosaic of hereditary combinations, she predicts. Each new generation will be welcomed as an opportunity for a fresh educational experiment.

"One of the depressing aspects of a falling birth rate is the over weighting of the community with the mentally and morally tired," Dr. Charles warns with regard to the present tendency toward an increasing number of old people in the nation.

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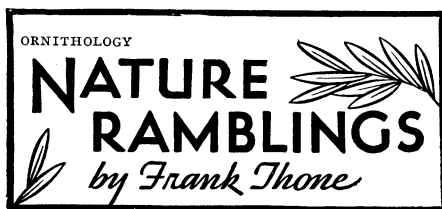
Science News Letter, November 10, 1934

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Repeal Promotes New Plant Disease Studies

REPEAL of prohibition has re-opened a new avenue of scientific research in plant diseases, especially those of hops. Dr. G. R. Hoerner, agent of the United States Department of Agriculture located at the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station announces the differentiation of three distinct classes of crown gall, or plant cancer, of hops.

Science News Letter, November 10, 1934



Old Corvie

ROBIN and thrush and meadowlark are far away, and it will be many weeks before we hear their songs again. But one song we can always be sure of hearing if we will go out into the country a little distance. Old Corvie is a faithful fellow, even if his voice is harsh.

The crow seems to be one of the most versatile birds in the world. Perhaps that is why he can stick around in the winter, when the gentler but less hardy songsters have had to clear out. You find the crow all around the earth, apparently without any difference of species, from Kamtchatka to Kalamazoo.

Although crows are found in lands where it is cold, it is true that they do migrate. But like many hardy birds, they migrate only comparatively short distances, so that when the crows we have in summer go away, others from a little farther north come to spend the winter with us. And not infrequently the same sly thieves we have had with us in summer decide not to go south at all.

Another reason why the crow is able to get along in so many lands and under such a variety of climates is that he is not at all fussy about what he eats. He is quite as versatile in that respect as man himself, or as that other great thief from man's stores, the common rat. Animal food, whether living or carrion, vegetable food, whether fresh grain sprouts or garbage—it is all the same to his black majesty.

Finally, the crow survives because he has very good wits for a bird. All sorts of anecdotes can be told of the shrewdness of crows, in "spotting" would-be hunters even in the shelter of thick brush, or of knowing whether or not you have a gun with you.

Science News Letter, November 10, 1934

CHEMISTRY

Organize Clearing House For Heavy Water Research

SO FAST and furious has research progressed on a study of the heavy isotope of hydrogen that a "clearing house" for coordinating and promptly reporting new discoveries has been organized. A Committee on Hydrogen Isotopes has been organized by the National Research Council with Prof. Harold C. Urey of Columbia University, New York, one of the co-discoverers of the heavy-weight isotope, as chairman.

It is believed the work of the committee will prevent, in the future, duplication of research investigations where they seem undesirable.

Science News Letter, November 10, 1934

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