

America's shameful record on the streets and highways in 1935 is both worse and better than in 1934. Traffic deaths reached an all time peak at 36,100; an increase of one per cent over the previous year. That is the bad side.

But on the good side of the traffic death ledger is the fact that gains in motor car registrations and gasoline consumption should have increased the deaths from 5 to 6 per cent.

Hope for Future

Something altered the increasing trend and slowed it up for the first time in some years. The curve denoting deaths by years has risen each time but appears to be flattening off. Sometime soon it may reach its peak and start downward.

Out of the whole complicated picture certain efforts stand out as giving help in remedying existing traffic conditions. Without attempting to put them in order of importance they might well be the following:

1. Curb the driver who travels above the speed limit but set the limits reasonably; 10 miles an hour where needed but with high speeds where possible with safety.

2. Build "smart roads for the dumb drivers" who at present do high speed driving on low speed roads.

3. Through education train the younger generation to the realization of traffic hazards.

4. Strive for more uniformity of requirements for driver licenses, making physical examination and a real test of driving ability essential parts.

Improve Design

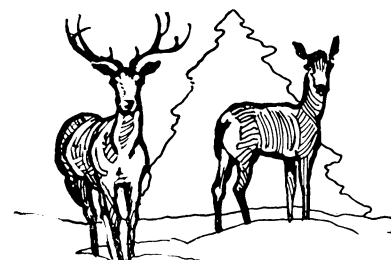
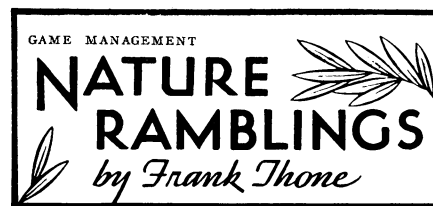
5. Let motor car manufacturers so design their cars that they will stay in factory-delivered condition longer than they do; and make periodic inspection of motor cars mandatory to solve the problem of the careless delinquent driver who is taking a moving menace over the roads at high speed.

6. Strive for uniformity in traffic signals and regulations. Have them reasonable but enforce them consistently.

7. Attempt the solution of the parking problem with its resulting aid to decreasing congestion.

8. Use the propaganda of fear where necessary but remember that it will only work over fairly short periods of time and is not a permanent solution.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1936



Deer Versus Forests

DEER and the woods are so commonly thought of as inseparable that it will come as a shock to many to learn that they can be enemies. And it will be a second shock, to hear that the profession of forestry in Germany, usually held up to the world as an almost inerrant model, can make mistakes, and has made some very serious ones in the past.

Yet such is the case. Right now, as a result of mistakes in past German policies of forestry and game management, there are too many deer in the forests of Germany, and the problem of getting them back into balance with their food supply is giving German foresters and game management people many brow-wrinkling hours.

The ups and downs of deer and forest, the flow and ebb of forestry fads in Mitteleuropa (for there have been fads even in German forestry) are given a thoughtful exposition by Aldo Leopold of the University of Wisconsin (*Journal of Forestry*, April). Mr. Leopold spent several months in the forest regions of Germany and Czechoslovakia, investigating conditions and methods there.

The present deer-forest unbalance in Germany, Mr. Leopold indicates, is due in part to the "spruce fad" of the late nineteenth century. It was found that larger cuttings of wood could be made from pure stands of spruce trees, grown close together, than from any other type of forest. So this highly artificial type of tree-cultivation swept the country, and held sway until about the time of the World War.

But in such a forest there is nothing for deer to eat. Spruce needles themselves are inedible, and the crowded

MEDICINE

Find New Dangers in Chronic Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A NEW danger from insidious carbon monoxide poisoning, previously unrecognized by physicians generally, was reported by Dr. Harvey Beck of Baltimore at the meeting of the American Therapeutic Society in Kansas City, Mo.

The hitherto overlooked disease is slow carbon monoxide asphyxiation. Acute carbon monoxide poisoning has been much discussed, but the chronic form has been neglected, Dr. Beck said. He thinks physicians have confused the chronic form with other diseases which it resembles in some of its symptoms. He reported ninety-seven cases of this condition. The patients had been repeatedly exposed to carbon monoxide, in doses too small to kill them outright, at varying intervals over prolonged periods.

The patients complained chiefly of headache, but also of dizziness, nervousness, nerve and muscle pains, shortness of breath, digestive disturbances and palpitation. Weakness, restlessness, a

depressed feeling were other symptoms. Some of the patients were confused and had difficulty in talking. Two had symptoms of stomach ulcer and two suffered from typical angina pectoris. These symptoms of serious heart and stomach disorders cleared up promptly when the patients were removed from exposure to carbon monoxide which in these cases came from defective gas heaters.

In all cases of this disease the cause of it, exposure to small amounts of carbon monoxide, must be removed before the patients can be restored.

Solution of the problem lies in proper preventive measures, Dr. Beck said. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, tasteless, odorless gas which gives no warning of its presence. It kills by combining with the hemoglobin of the blood, thus depriving the body tissues of their normal supply of oxygen. Air containing as much as one-tenth per cent of this gas is dangerous to life.

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treetops shade out all undergrowth good for browse. The forest floor in one of these closed stands of evergreen trees is a desert, really much emptier of lesser plant life than most of the world's arid regions.

Yet during the dominance of these artificial spruce forests the deer have continued to increase. The only answer to the riddle, Mr. Leopold states, is artificial feeding. The German gentry and nobility, who must have their sport, have kept the deer "on relief" for decades—a proceeding which no practical for-

ester or conservationist approves at all.

The situation is beginning to remedy itself, however. Second and third crops of spruce did not justify the optimistic expectations of the original "spruce-boosters," and German foresters are turning increasingly toward mixed plantings, including important hardwood trees, so that in time the new German "Dauerwald," or permanent forest, will more closely resemble the famous forest primeval, the "Urwald," which so greatly awed Romans venturing beyond the Rhine.

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SEISMOLOGY

Used Plane to Hunt Quake Located by Seismograph

EARTHQUAKE-hunting in an airplane, with the "scent" of the geologic game supplied by telegraph from distant points, was the unique experience reported by Dr. Ernest A. Hodgson of the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, at the meeting of the Seismological Society of America in Washington, D. C.

The quake was the big shake-up of last Nov. 1, which centered near Timiskaming, in the wilderness region of Ontario Province, and was felt all over eastern North America. As soon as he felt the tremors in Ottawa, Dr. Hodgson knew that it was "his" earthquake—that, as the nearest seismologist, it was up to him to find where the disturbance occurred and have a look at the ground.

Data from seven widely separated observatories, supplied telegraphically by Science Service, enabled him to calculate the location of the epicenter; though

certain technical difficulties enforced a month of the hardest kind of figuring before the troublesome quake could be pinned down exactly on the map. Even then, it turned out to be decidedly in the "wrong place," for the indicated spot lay in the midst of a terrific tangle of uninhabited dense forest, interspersed with hundreds of lakes. It was a place impossible to reach, except by boat or airplane.

Dr. Hodgson borrowed a Canadian government plane and flew to the calculated spot. Sure enough, there were geological evidences of a brand-new earth movement.

Dr. Hodgson also related how he received the earthquake's own report, "by ear," even before the ground shook in Ottawa. He was in bed but not yet asleep, shortly after midnight, when he heard the "earthquake sound," coming from a direction that later proved to be the right one. A few seconds later he could feel the earth shake.

Although the Timiskaming earthquake is commonly said to have occurred on Nov. 1, it isn't really ended yet, Dr. Hodgson said. Frequent aftershocks are felt, at least locally in the Timiskaming neighborhood, and they continue to register on his instruments in Ottawa. The telegraph operator in Timiskaming has become a volunteer seismologist; whenever he feels a tremor, he immediately wires the Dominion Observatory.

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Lilacs are not native American plants; they came to this country from Europe and Asia.

PHYSIOLOGY-PHOTOGRAPHY

Tiny Movie Camera Films Vocal Cords in Action

A MOTION picture camera so small and compact that it can be pushed into the larynx, to take films of the vocal cords in action, has been invented by two Viennese scientists, Dr. Kamillo Wiethe, a physician, and Dr. Franz Gerhard Back, an engineer. It is expected to be useful in at least three ways: to study the mechanics of the voice, particularly in famous singers; to investigate the physiology of the production of the various vowel sounds; and as an aid in the diagnosis of throat diseases, particularly those with a nervous involvement.

The new camera is an addition to an already existing series of miniature photographic apparatus designed for obtaining pictures of various internal cavities. One camera, for taking pictures of the inside of the stomach in the diagnosis of gastric ulcer, cancer and other ailments, is swallowed by the patient. It carries its own tiny light bulb with it. Once the exposure is made, the surgeon pulls the camera up again and develops his film.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Lightning Portrait Repays Patience of Photographer

See Front Cover

LIGHTNING is one subject that the photographer can never persuade to pose for him. To catch a view such as that on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, he must direct his camera toward a likely portion of the sky, open the shutter and then hope for the best.

The elements were particularly obliging for the camera of Arthur L. Cooper, who took this shot late on a summer evening at Eagle River, Wisconsin.

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THE IDENTITY THEORY

By Blamey Stevens

Dear Student:

Are you a *yes* man? Or do you use your own intelligence? Don't be misled by the generation that had no choice but to follow the fantastic relativity and photon theories until they got beyond the Osler age, when new fundamentals cannot be absorbed. Read up both sides of the case and make your *own* choice, not the one you are told to make.

8vo. 248 pages, cloth bound. Price \$2.00 post paid. Sixteen page summary free on application

Published by Sherratt & Hughes, Manchester, England. Also on order from the author at 438 W. 116th St. New York City

● RADIO

June 30, 2:15 p.m., E.S.T.
BIGGER AND BETTER BERRIES—Dr. Frederick V. Coville of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry.

July 7, 2:15 p.m., E.S.T.
SAFETY FIRST IN SUMMER EATING
 —Miss Melva Bakkie of the American Red Cross.

(No program on June 23.)

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.