

scribed by Dr. Harlow B. Mills and Prof. J. H. Pepper of Montana State College.

The creature is known in common parlance as "ice bug" or "alpine rock crawler" because of its preference for cold spots. Entomologists give it the rather formidable name of *Grylloblatta campodeiformis*, which translates roughly as "cricket-cockroach shaped like a caterpillar." Even to the experts it must look queer.

Dr. Mills and Prof. Pepper, who were fortunate enough last autumn to secure about 150 specimens in all stages of development, reported that the ice bug prefers a temperature of 38 degrees Fahrenheit, at which most other insects become dormant with cold, and that it suffered heat prostration at 80 degrees. Most common insects are normal at that temperature, and do not succumb to heat prostration until 120 degrees is reached.

The ice bug lives only at high elevations, from 5,400 to 8,600 feet. It is extremely solitary in its habits, and apparently of a mean disposition, although it can neither sting nor bite effectively. Scientists regard it as a "living fossil," for it is the sole survivor of a group that has been off the map for many millions of years.

Head-First Recovery

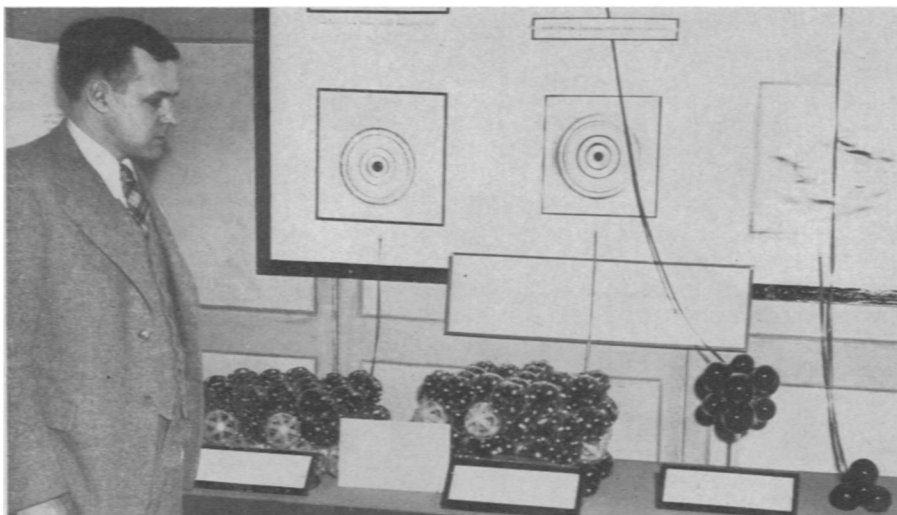
When the effects of ether anesthesia are wearing off, the recovery goes head-first. That is, the head and related parts are first to be able to feel and respond to stimuli again; then the forepart of the body and the front limbs; finally the wave of recovery sweeps all the way aft.

Albert C. Cornsweet, of the psychology faculty at the University of North Carolina, reported that he found this head-first, tail-last recovery to prevail in white rats which he had kept anesthetized for periods of from four to seven minutes.

An interesting feature of the experiments was that even though the animals showed evidence of recovery of feeling and response in this fore-to-aft fashion, they could not stand up and move about normally until their hind legs and tail regions were fully recovered.

Mr. Cornsweet is now investigating with other animals and other anesthetics, to find how widespread this phenomenon is in the animal world. He is also making tests on smaller body areas, to determine more narrowly the direction and rate of travel of the recovery wave.

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SOIL MOLECULE MODELS

Dr. Dean Burk, U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, with the Bureau's exhibit at the A.A.S. meeting. Bureau studies show that the colloidal content of all soils is of only two types. The models were made by Dr. Lewis Maxwell.

MEDICINE

Find a Possible Relation Between Glands and Cancer

GLAND activity may be a factor in the causation of at least some kinds of cancers, it appears from the report of Dr. J. Halsey Bagg of the Douglas Research Laboratory, Memorial Hospital and Cornell Medical College in New York City, to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Malignant tumors, or cancers, of the sex organs of fowl result, Dr. Bagg found, from chemical irritation with zinc chloride acting under the normal seasonal influence of the sex hormones which occurs during the early part of the year when the sex glands are most active.

At other times of the year, when the sex glands are inactive, the chemical irritation of zinc chloride failed to produce cancers. However, if the anterior pituitary hormone of sheep was used to stimulate the sex glands before injection of the irritating chemical, the cancers were produced even during the seasons when the sex glands were normally inactive.

Prolonged stimulation of the glands by pituitary hormone treatments alone without the chemical produced no tumors.

The tumors produced were malignant, grew very rapidly and were simi-

lar to those seen in man, Dr. Bagg reported. He pointed out that spontaneous tumors of the sex organs in birds are very rare.

Yeast Extracts Pinch-Hit

Yeast extracts seem to be able to replace the secretion of the very important internal gland, the pituitary, in stimulating at least partially normal growth in male sex organs, zoologists at the meeting heard from a three-man Harvard University research team: Drs. F. L. Hisaw, R. O. Greep and H. L. Fevold.

The pituitary is sometimes styled the "master gland" because of its apparent control over a large number of bodily activities. Among other things, it must normally provide an essential and continuing stimulus during the growth of the sex organs. If the pituitary is diseased or otherwise put out of action, the individual does not mature.

Yet when Dr. Hisaw and his associates removed the pituitaries from a number of young male rats, and then kept them supplied with an extract made from brewer's yeast, the primary sex glands failed to degenerate and carried on nearly normal growth. Accessory sex structures, however, did undergo regression.

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