



ODORLESS CABBAGE

Cornell Early Savoy Cabbages, growing on the grounds of Thomas Madsen, New York City seedsman. Uncursed with the usual cabbage odor, they promise to make "corned-beef-and-" painless in apartments—and the Tortoise House in the London Zoo fitter for human beings to breathe in.

GENETICS

Tortoises Like Cabbage But Britons Don't Like Odor

TORTOISES crave cabbage; Britons object to odor; Cornell to the rescue. No, that isn't a cryptic code message out of a mystery thriller. It's a plain statement of facts, boiled down.

It all started with the development of a cabbage minus customary cabbage odor, by Prof. C. H. Myers of the department of plant breeding at Cornell University. That was a couple of years ago. Something got into the papers about it.

Over in England a noted zoologist saw the news item. He is Prof. Julian S. Huxley, descendant of Darwin's famous friend and champion. Prof. Huxley is secretary of the Zoological Society of London.

He had a problem on his hands. In his zoo is a Tortoise House. Tortoises like cabbage. Cabbage is good for them. Cabbage, therefore, they get to eat.

But it is warm in the Tortoise House. It has to be, to keep the cold-blooded

denizens lively and contented. And in the warm atmosphere the pieces of cabbage left lying around ferment and develop a most powerful "breath." Visitors to the zoo naturally don't like that.

Prof. Huxley wrote to Science Service, to trace the story of the odorless cabbages, hoping that here might be a way to give the tortoises their favorite dainty and yet spare the noses of discriminating Britons. Science Service in turn wrote to Prof. Myers, who supplied desired information:

The new odorless kind of cabbage has a name now. It is called Cornell Early Savoy. It is described as "uniformly well crinkled, dark green foliage; heads of medium size, light green in color, semi-pointed, very crisp and succulent. Exceptionally fine for cooking." If tortoises can't respond to *that*, there's no gratitude in the chelonian heart.

The small original stock of seed was shipped to Denmark for multiplication.

Denmark is the heart of the original home of the whole cabbage tribe, and is still the best place for launching new strains of cabbage on their career. Now there are a couple of American seedsmen who have Cornell Early Savoy seed ready for the market. During the past summer small crops of it were raised in several places in upstate New York, where the heads found a ready market.

And next year, most likely, the tortoises in London's Tortoise House will have their rations of the new cabbage and Britons with noses safe from outrage will be on hand to watch them chew.

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BIOGRAPHY

Story of "Royal Family" Of Science—The Curies

THE FASCINATING tale of a "royal family" of science, the Curies, marches through the pages of a new book. (*MADAME CURIE, A BIOGRAPHY—Eve Curie, translated by Vincent Sheean—Doubleday, Doran, 393 p., illus., \$3.50*)

The Curies, who have won three Nobel Prizes in science in two generations, furnish more than enough material for a biography by any author. When that author is a member of the family, as is Eve Curie, the wealth of intimate and accurate information is unsurpassed.

While the book relates the life of Marie Curie, who rose from obscurity in Poland to become better known than any living scientist, the Curie family traces and retraces its footsteps through the pages. There is Pierre, scholarly husband of Marie—and her scientific idol—who guided her in their early years of research in isolating radium and who, with her, was a winner of the Nobel Prize in 1903. Pierre's tragic death in an accident in 1906 left Marie with two young children: Eve, the author of the book, and her sister, Irene, who, in 1935 also won the Nobel Prize with her husband Frederick Joliot.

Couple these two awards with Marie Curie's second winning of the Nobel Prize, in 1911, (the only person twice honored) and one has a family which rightly can be called "royal" in an intellectual sense.

The excellent translation of Vincent Sheean has done much to make "Madame Curie" as outstanding a book in English as it is in the original French. The book was published simultaneously in England, France, Italy, Spain and the other nations of Europe.

Science News Letter, December 11, 1937