

mal in which they live. There are a number of species of insects and smaller crustacea that become populated with these shining germs, and in most instances such infection is fatal. Luminous wounds in human beings have even been recorded, in days before modern aseptic surgery.

Less serious in its consequences, and with even a humorous touch, was a case

of "borrowed fire" which Prof. Harvey himself observed in Cuba. He found what appeared at first to be a luminescent frog. Upon closer examination, however, it turned out that the frog had just made a hearty meal of fireflies, which were still shining so strongly that their light came through the skin on his bulging abdomen.

Science News Letter, May 25, 1940

GENERAL SCIENCE—RESOURCES

Americas Should Take Lead In Assuring World Peace

Waste or Destruction of Necessary Resources Anywhere Affects Welfare and Security of Peoples Everywhere

NATIONS of the Americas can and should take the lead in assuring world peace through equitable distribution and planned conservation of natural resources, Gifford Pinchot declared before the Eighth American Scientific Congress in Washington.

To this end, he urged the appointment of a commission to assemble data from already existing sources and put them into form that will be useful and effective when the now warring powers sit down around the council table to arrange terms of peace. This is the contribution that neutral nations can make for a lasting international concord, he pointed out, adding, "It would be wise to prepare in time."

Mr. Pinchot said, in part:

"The proposal is that the nations of the Americas prepare now for an endeavor to bring all nations together, at the right moment, in a common effort for conserving the natural resources of the earth, and for assuring to each na-

tion access to the raw materials it needs, without recourse to war.

"In all countries some natural resources are being depleted or destroyed. Needless waste or destruction of necessary resources anywhere threatens or will threaten, sooner or later, the welfare and security of peoples everywhere. Conservation is clearly a world necessity, not only for enduring prosperity, but also for permanent peace.

"No nation is self-sufficient in essential raw materials. The welfare of every nation depends on access to natural resources which it lacks. Fair access to natural resources from other nations is therefore an indispensable condition of permanent peace. . . .

"The conservation of natural resources and fair access to needed raw materials are steps toward the common good to which all nations must in principle agree. Since the American nations are less dependent on imported natural resources than European nations, and since they are already engaged in broadening international trade through negotiated agreements, their initiative to such ends would be natural and appropriate.

"The problem of permanent peace includes, of course, great factors which the foregoing proposal does not cover. But it does cover that factor which is certainly, in the long run, the most potent of them all."

Science News Letter, May 25, 1940

Adjusting traffic *lights* so that they are bright in the day and dimmer at night is being tried in England for blackout reasons, but they may also be plainer that way when drivers face the sun.

BIOLOGY

Students Take Subjects But Do Subjects "Take"?

STUDENTS often talk of "taking" a subject, but often the subject doesn't "take" on the student. A single exposure seems to confer lifelong immunity. At any rate, they don't do anything with or about it afterwards. Perhaps the textbook for the course is partly responsible. It rounds up the course, finishes it, makes no provision for later continuation. A new text, *Everyday Biology*, by Curtis, Caldwell and Sherman (Ginn) does something to remedy this defect. Its final section provides "leads" that may make biology a lifelong interest—hobby, if nothing more serious—by suggesting how to "go collecting" (and how to make needed equipment), how to do nature photography, how to identify animal tracks, how to "bring 'em back alive" and keep 'em alive at home, how to make gardens, or models of gardens and a score of other fascinating activities. If you "take" biology this way, very likely you'll never get over it.

Science News Letter, May 25, 1940

Britons call the *flaps* on barrage balloons "ton patches" because from them mooring cables hang, and each weak-looking flap is tested for taking a ton of weight.

● Earth Trembles

Information collected by Science Service from seismological observatories resulted in the location by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Jesuit Seismological Association of the following preliminary epicenters:

Saturday, May 4, 2:24.1 a.m., EST

Near Attu Island (Aleutians). Latitude, 53 degrees north. Longitude, 173 degrees east. Strong shock.

Saturday, May 4, 4:01.4 p.m., EST

May have occurred in Persia, near Caspian.

Saturday, May 4, 9:03.6 p.m., EST

Apparently near the coast of northern Peru.

Saturday, May 11, 8:54.6 a.m., EST

Near Attu Island (Aleutians). Latitude, 52.7 degrees north. Longitude, 172.4 degrees east. Moderate shock.

For stations cooperating with Science Service, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Jesuit Seismological Association in reporting earthquakes recorded on their seismographs, see SNL, Feb. 24.

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