

whole laboratory full of experiments going and hope soon to have the answer.

The relation, or lack of it, between alcohol and cirrhosis of the liver has puzzled scientists for a long time. More and more clues point to the importance of diet, particularly since lack of vitamins, rather than too much alcohol, has been called responsible for the mental illness that afflicts many chronic alcoholics.

Diffuse nodular cirrhosis of the liver was produced in rats fed very little protein and large amounts of fat, Dr. Harold Blumberg and Dr. Hugh G. Grady, of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and the National Cancer Institute, discovered in experiments they reported.

Liver damage resembling that seen in

human eclampsia, in which the patient has convulsions, developed in rats fed a low fat diet 10% of which was made up of cystine, one of the amino acids that builds protein, Dr. Joseph Victor and Dr. David P. Earle, Jr., of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons reported.

Large amounts of lard or cod liver oil protected the rats against this liver damage, but neither butter, yeast, nor protein did. Drs. Victor and Earle, with Dr. Joseph Post, also investigated the effect of yeast, which is a source of vitamins, on the kind of cirrhosis rats get from carbon tetrachloride. The yeast did not seem to check the liver damage from the carbon tetrachloride.

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Unusual Prey

DUCK HAWKS forsaking their normal prey to make their meals off bats is the unusual occurrence reported by Kenneth E. Stager of the Los Angeles Museum.

He observed these bat-eating hawks while he was studying the enormous bat colony that lives in Ney Cave, in Medina County, Texas. While waiting outside the cave entrance one afternoon, he noticed three duck hawks circling about. These were presently joined by three more. The six birds kept diving close to the cave mouth, uttering shrill, fierce cries, Mr. Stager relates.

At about half-past three the bats suddenly erupted out of the cave, pouring upward in a dense stream about 15 feet in diameter. Into this uncountable mass of bats the hawks dived time after time. Apparently they did not single out any particular victims, but just sailed in and grabbed whatever they hit.

Whenever one of the hawks emerged with a dead bat in its talons, it flew around the side of the hill and disappeared for a time, apparently to devour its prey. Then it would reappear and again dive to the attack.

After a time four of the hawks, apparently having satisfied their hunger, flew away. The remaining two kept up their raiding until all the bats in the first flight had emerged from the cave. The first flight lasted about an hour.

After a pause of another hour, a second flight of bats poured out of the cave, even larger than the first. A pair of the hawks reappeared and began to harass the outcoming bats, but in a more or less desultory fashion, as if their appetites were no longer keen. The second flight

ARCHAEOLOGY

Conqueror Mohammed Wrote Poetry As Religious Exercise

His Poems Were Literary Exercises or Word Games Written According to Rule and Without Originality

DISCOVERY in Near Eastern ruined cities of ancient Jewish synagogues provided with attached living quarters for transients and attendants sheds new light on evolution of synagogue architecture.

The ruins confirm the assumption in ancient literature, that early synagogues had living quarters, Dr. C. H. Kraeling of Yale University reported to the American Oriental Society, meeting in Chicago.

Earliest and most elaborate remains of such a synagogue have been found at the caravan city of Dura in Syria, he stated. This building dates from the third century A.D., and was developed from a private house used as a place of worship. A Christian chapel in Dura also is recognized as a house turned into a church. Fifth century synagogues found

at Stobae and el-Hammeh recently also show provisions for residence, he stated.

That the fierce conqueror Mohammed was a not very original poet who wrote as a religious exercise, was the verdict of Prof. A. H. Lybyer, University of Illinois.

"Under the pseudonym of Avni, the Sultan wrote a group of poems which perhaps reveal no noteworthy poetry of soul, profound insight, or originality of any kind," Prof. Lybyer pointed out. "Rather they are literary exercises according to accepted rules, 'word games' or love poems which are not revelations of intense human feeling, but rather displays of mystical religious symbolism. The verses fit well the portrait of a calm Mohammed who sits looking intently at a rose in his hand."

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