

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.

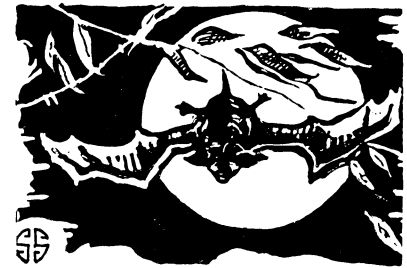
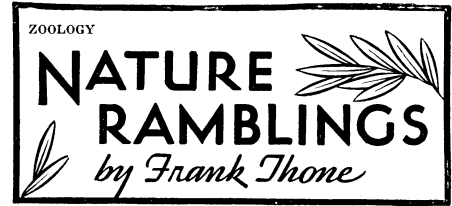
Diffuse nodular cirrhosis of the liver was produced in rats fed very little protein and large amounts of fat, Dr. Harold Blumberg and Dr. Hugh G. Grady, of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and the National Cancer Institute, discovered in experiments they reported.

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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of bats lasted until 9:30 at night, but long before that the two lingerers gave up their attacks and flew away.

Before dawn, Mr. Stager stationed himself by the cave mouth to watch the return flight of the bats. Again the hawks appeared, and dashed into the cloud of flying mammals to get their breakfasts.

At no time, apparently, did the bats make any attempt to evade the hawks' attacks. The predations of even half-a-dozen hungry birds made no impression whatever on the innumerable hordes, and even their smashing dives into the column made only momentary disturbances.

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was urged by Dr. H. L. Shantz of the U. S. Forest Service.

The nation's resources were divided by Dr. Shantz into two categories, renewable and non-renewable. The latter are of mainly mineral origin. Some, notably the metals, last a long time and can be reworked several times before they vanish out of circulation. Others, especially coal, oil, natural gas and fertilizer deposits like phosphates and potash, are completely expended the first time they are used. Non-renewable also, the speaker pointed out, are species of plants and animals: once exterminated, they can never return.

Renewable resources include water power, plant products, and animal uses of plant products. These come back in cycles; every year in annual crops, over longer periods in forest products, perennially in water power. These are the things that should be used most freely, and should be substituted for non-renewable resources where that can be done, as in use of plastics for metals.

The soil occupies an intermediate position. If it is permitted to waste itself through erosion, it is strictly a non-renewable resource. If it is properly conserved, it moves into the renewable category.

"Plant cover is most important as a source of energy and as a means for holding the soil," stated Dr. Shantz. "When this cover is gone, it becomes almost impossible to hold the soil. It is doubtful if plowlands can endure permanently, but where there is a closed cover of vegetation the soil is permanently safe."

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Suprenals Affect Heart

HEART diseases, of several different types, are due to abnormal functioning of the suprarenal glands, small

bodies above the kidneys that furnish adrenalin and other hormones necessary for normal functioning of the body but harmful in excess, Dr. William Raab of the University of Vermont medical college told the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In experiments on rats, Dr. Raab found that the heart muscle seems to have a peculiar affinity for adrenalin and its associated hormones. The animals' hearts absorbed more of these adreno-cortical compounds than did other organs. An overdose, above a certain definite concentration, inevitably resulted in death by heart failure.

Experimental data are backed up by clinical results, the speaker claimed. In the too-common and exceedingly painful heart disease, angina pectoris, it was found that physical exercise resulted in excessive discharges of the hormones into the blood stream, and these in turn provoked typical attacks. In a number of cases, where the glands were partially inactivated by X-ray treatment, these abnormal discharges were abolished for many months, with parallel disappearance of the anginal attacks.

Dr. Raab traced similar apparent connections between abnormal discharges from the suprarenal glands and other types of heart disease, including essential hypertension and congestive heart failure. Assay of the heart muscle, in autopsies of patients who had died of heart failure, showed abnormal amounts of the hormones. Usually these were excessive, but in some cases subnormal concentrations were found.

Summarizing his results, Dr. Raab stated: "It can be said that normal functioning of the heart muscle is dependent on the presence of normal amounts of adreno-cortical (AC) hormones in its tissue. Both abnormal increase and diminution of the myocardial AC are likely to bring about heart failure. Intense AC discharges into the blood stream going on over years and decades stimulate, exhaust, and finally damage the myocardial tissue in a similar manner as they stimulate and ultimately damage the muscular walls of the arteries."

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Insects Lured By Scent

CHEMICAL lures may eventually be used as protection for crops, instead of the barrages of poison spray with which plants have to be drenched nowadays. It may become possible to mislead insect pests to lay their eggs in chemically scented traps, instead of on

plants, Dr. V. G. Dethier of John Carroll University suggested.

Dr. Dethier has been experimenting with many kinds of insects and many kinds of chemical compounds found in plants, to get some idea of what induces certain species to lay their eggs on just one or a very few kinds of plants. The cabbage butterfly, which never lays its eggs on anything but the leaves of cabbages and related plants, was attracted by compounds found in just that group of plants. The orange puppy, a troublesome pest of citrus trees, is lured by the scent of two chemicals, citral and methyl-nonyl-ketone. The tent caterpillar has a decided preference for poison in small quantities: it hastened to a bait of hydrocyanic acid and benzaldehyde.

Dr. Dethier demonstrated that insects are guided by their chemical sense by impregnating filter paper with the chemical compounds preferred by various species. Each insect went to the paper scented with its favorite luring odor and proceeded to make a meal of it, despite its lack of other resemblance to leaves and its obvious indigestibility.

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VETERINARY MEDICINE

Ticks Suspected Carriers Of Fatal Poultry Disease

TICKS are under indictment for another crime of disease-carrying. This time it is fowl paralysis, a highly fatal disease that wipes out whole flocks of poultry. Researches by J. C. Brown and Prof. J. C. Cross, of Texas College of Arts and Industries, strongly suggest that the carrier is the fowl tick, or "blue bug" as it is familiarly known. (*Science*, May 30.)

It was noticed that chickens in pens infested with "blue bugs" were dying of fowl paralysis at an appalling rate. Thorough cleanup and disinfection of some of the pens was followed by high survival rate. In the infested pens 111 birds out of 120 developed paralysis. In the cleaned-up control pens only one bird out of 126 was stricken.

As a clincher, ticks from an infested hen were ground up and a suspension of their body substance was injected into several chickens. All were attacked by the disease.

Further researches, to find whether there are other possible carriers, are now in progress.

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In China, *cotton* was first grown as a garden plant.