

painted in an hour, but sometimes a day or more is needed to paint an intricate mammal like a jaguar or a giraffe. Oil paints are blended to achieve the elusive quality of an animal's coat.

The cheetah pursuing a black buck antelope was one of the most difficult animal groups to make. Both of them are practically in mid-air—the cheetah has just one paw touching the ground—yet no additional supports are necessary.

The klipspringer, a little antelope, is one of Mr. Jonas' favorites among the

almost 90 animals. Capable of springing up on a 30-foot rock, in real life it is only about 22 inches high.

The elephant and the field mouse have proven most popular with children, who enjoy the contrast in size. The animals this past year have been exhibited at the American Museum of Natural History and the Chicago Natural History Museum so children and grownups alike would have an opportunity to enjoy them.

Science News Letter, July 7, 1945

ASTRONOMY

To Observe Eclipse

Amateur astronomers will fly to Montana to observe the event of July 9. Will take photographs from the air if the weather is bad.

➤ AMATEUR astronomers will fly from New York to Butte, Mont., to observe the sunrise eclipse on July 9. If the weather does not permit ground observations, the entire expedition will fly above the clouds to take photographs.

A Lockheed airliner, owned by Sperry Gyroscope Company of Brooklyn, N. Y., will furnish transportation both ways for members of the Amateur Astronomers Association, Inc., which has headquarters at the Hayden Planetarium in New York. R. E. Gilmor, president of Sperry Gyroscope, announced that there would be no charge to the amateur astronomers for use of the plane and its crew.

The expedition will take off from MacArthur Field, Long Island, on July 7, and land near an appropriate observing site near Butte, Mont., where the total phase of the eclipse occurs soon after sunrise.

On Sunday, July 8, the equipment will be set up. It is expected that color motion pictures of the partially eclipsed sunrise will be made, followed by the same for totality. The largest instrument carried in the plane will be a four-inch camera of 10-foot focus, giving an image of the sun itself about one and one quarter inches in diameter.

If weather does not permit ground observations, the entire expedition will take off again early Monday morning, fly above the clouds to take the photographs, and then head straight back to Long Island.

The plane will carry relatively few persons as most of its passenger space has been cleared for observing equipment. The party will include, in addi-

tion to the crew, George V. Plachy, secretary of the society; Peter A. Leavens, director of the society's camera station at Sayville, Long Island, and in charge of the expedition's photographic equipment; and a few other observers and amateur astronomers.

Science News Letter, July 7, 1945

Justifies Trips

➤ ALTHOUGH there is a war still being waged, the total eclipse of the sun on Monday, July 9, is a sufficiently rare and important event to justify astronomers traveling to the path of totality to observe it, Dr. John Q. Stewart, Princeton University astronomer, said.

"Before V-E Day it was announced that the Russians were sending no less than 22 expeditions of astronomers to various parts of that war-torn country," Dr. Stewart said, speaking as guest of Watson Davis, Science Service director, on the CBS program "Adventures in Science."

The eclipse will be observed also in Norway and Sweden as well as in the United States and Canada. Amateurs as well as professional astronomers are visiting the narrow band of totality that will begin at sunrise in Idaho.

Dr. Stewart explained that he has enlisted the help of some 60 foresters stationed in the path of totality in studying the advancing shadow of the moon at the time of the eclipse. Dr. Stewart himself will observe the eclipse from a point near Malta, Mont., where the sun will rise partially eclipsed.

Science News Letter, July 7, 1945

CHEMISTRY

Improved Methods for Extracting Actinomycin

➤ JUST as sulfanilamide, the sulfa drug, was joined by a considerable family of chemical cousins within a few years of its original discovery, so now we may expect related extracts from earth-dwelling molds to join penicillin, the first widely publicized and used germ-stopper of that origin. One such compound, known as actinomycin, together with a method for extracting it, is the subject of two new U. S. patents and assigned to Merck and Company, Inc.

The first patent, on the mold chemical itself, is No. 2,378,876, taken out by Prof. Selman A. Waksman of Rutgers University and Dr. Harold B. Woodruff, scientist in Merck's employ. Actinomycin, as they describe it, is a red substance left after a mold known as *Actinomyces antibioticus* has been subjected to ether extraction and the extract then evaporated. It can be chemically separated into two fractions, designated respectively as A and B. Actinomycin A is stated to be especially powerful in its action against certain microorganisms.

The second patent, No. 2,378,449, was granted to another Merck employee, Dr. Max Tishler, and covers an improved method for extracting Actinomycin A.

Science News Letter, July 7, 1945

SEISMOLOGY

Double Earthquakes Recorded in California

➤ TWO earthquakes, centered close together in the Lower California region, wrote their autographs on instruments in several American observatories on Wednesday, June 27, seismologists of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey reported.

The first, which began at 9:08.3 a.m., EWT, had its epicenter near latitude 27 degrees north, longitude 111 degrees west. The second quake began at 2:08 p.m., EWT, and centered about 100 miles southwest of the first, approximately in latitude 26.5 degrees north, longitude 112.5 degrees west. Both were indicated as moderately strong shocks.

Stations reporting were those of St. Louis University, Georgetown University, and the observatories of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey at Tucson, Ariz., Ukiah, Calif., Sitka and Honolulu.

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