

Do You Know?

Oxygen is the only element taken by higher organisms in the free state.

Phosphate fed to cattle results in more calves and greater butchering weight.

The *wood bison* is larger, darker in color, and shaggier than the bison found on the Plains.

Seacows are not whales but a distinct group of mammals that have taken to the sea; they are related to the elephants.

Potatoes, one of America's principal food crops, are grown in every state and territory; the 1944 crop was nearly 380,000,000 bushels, of which Maine produced 53,000,000 bushels and Idaho 36,000,000 bushels.

Silica gel, an inexpensive chemical now used inside packages of instruments or machinery to absorb moisture in the air, may soon be used in air-conditioning units to lower the humidity in offices and homes.

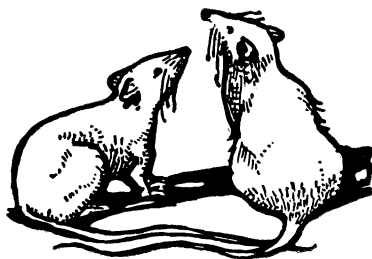
Tannin from American sumac will produce light-colored leathers similar to those obtained with imported sumac if the leaves are dried rapidly either by spreading them out in the sun or by artificial heat.

Pears are one of the most satisfactory products from which yeast is made; one pound of starter in the proper media will increase to 64 pounds in 24 hours and requires only a 2% solution of sugar to propagate the yeast.

SPEAK SPANISH THIS EASY WAY

BIG opportunities and jobs waiting for those who speak Spanish. Millions of dollars being invested in Mexico, Central and South America. **Enjoy more — earn more. Increase social, business, travel and reading pleasures.** CORTINA Method famous for over 60 years, teaches you to speak like a native. Learn quickly, easily at home "by listening" to Cortinaphone records. Thousands have, why not you? No risk under our Five-Day Approval offer. **FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN** also taught by this amazing method. Send for Free Book, "The Cortina Short-Cut"—state language interested in.

CORTINA ACADEMY—Established in 1882
Dept. 1059A 105 West 40th St., New York 18, N. Y.



Super-Rough-on-Rats

➤ A NEW chemical rat-killer, released from under wartime wraps, appears to be just about as deadly to rodent pests as DDT is to flies and mosquitoes. It was developed by chemists and biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Patuxent Research Refuge near Washington, D. C., and at the Wildlife Research Laboratory near Denver. First report on the new rodenticide is given by E. R. Kalmbach of the Denver laboratory, in *Science* (Aug. 31).

Chemically, the poison is sodium fluoroacetate. For convenience, it is known by a number, 1080—it was the thousand-and-eightieth in a long series of toxic materials tried out, under a transfer of funds from the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

The new ratbane seems to be the deadliest stuff ever tried out for the purpose. In carefully controlled tests, it has been able to kill the common Norway rat in concentrations as low as five milligrams per kilogram of body weight, Mr. Kalmbach states. That means that if a rat weighing half a pound swallows a pinpoint speck of it weighing less than two ten-thousandths of an ounce, he will die. To certain other rodents, such as prairie dogs, 1080 is deadly in even smaller doses.

One advantage of 1080 is its easy solubility in water. This make it possible to dilute it down to manageable doses, and probably also to add disguising scents or tastes in case rats become too wary. However, the latter precaution should not be necessary: if a rat-infested area is properly baited with 1080 there will be no survivors to teach a younger generation caution. The high solubility of 1080 also makes it possible to offer it to rats in simple water baits; a third of an ounce

in a gallon of water has proven quite effective in field tests.

If it has any taste to rats, it must be because they have a more acute sense of taste than human beings. A bit of the pure chemical, well below the toxic level for human beings, was tried out by Dr. Ray Treichler of the Fish and Wildlife Service, now on duty with the War Department, and he stated that he could not taste anything at all.

The deadliness of 1080, however, should not be played down, all workers with the stuff agree. One rat died in exactly 20 minutes after drinking water containing it, and at the end of two hours about a score of dead rats were picked up in the vicinity. It is no respecter of animals, and will kill pet dogs and cats, and possibly game and livestock, if they inadvertently get hold of it. For this reason, it is unlikely to be put on the market for general household use, but is more likely to be put in the hands of professional rodent-killers who wage campaigns against rats among wharves, granaries and warehouses, and against too-numerous prairie dogs and ground squirrels on western rangelands.

The high dilution in which 1080 can be used is one thing that will make it less dangerous, Dr. Treichler pointed out. It would be necessary for a man to eat six ounces of an ordinary bait containing it to get a lethal dose. If a little is swallowed it is soon excreted; its effects are not cumulative like those of many other poisons. Moreover, it is not absorbed through the skin like one of the rodenticides now in general professional use; this is a very great practical advantage in field handling.

Science News Letter, September 15, 1945

The *Peruvian Andes* differ strikingly from the American Rockies in the absence of a timbered zone.

NEW "PICK-UP" CANE

Permits Disabled Persons To Pick Up Small Articles Without Painful Stooping.

NO OTHER CANE LIKE IT

The Mason "Pick-Up" is a light double purpose cane with concealed patented pick up mechanism that enables the user by simple finger pressure and without any stooping to easily pick up papers, pencils, cards, coins, etc. Proper balance and rubber grip tip insures safer walking. Use a beautifully finished Mason "Pick-Up" Cane yourself or as a perfect gift for a disabled service man or friend. Write today for FREE CIRCULAR and 5 DAYS TRIAL OFFER.

W. H. MASON Box 27, Leesburgh, Ohio

