

Do You Know?

The color and flavor of *fats* are not of nutritive significance.

Coconuts are produced by four year old trees but full production is about the tenth year.

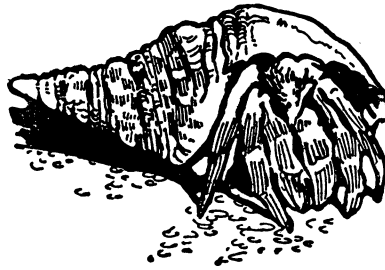
Tomatoes, pole beans, cucumbers and squash can be trained to the garden fence.

Asiatic *chestnuts* are being successfully grown in Ohio; they are resistant to the blight that killed practically all American chestnut trees since about 1900.

The strength of *copper* when cast, forged or in sheets is approximately 36,000 pounds per square inch; in the form of wire it is approximately 62,000 pounds per square inch.

Seaweed-derived *chemicals* have numerous uses and additional possible uses in the production of foodstuffs, textiles, transparent paper, plastics, sizing substances, and surgical, medical, and dental materials.

In spite of the availability again of natural rubber from the Far East, the *Castilla tree*, found from Mexico to Peru, may contribute to the future needs of the Western Hemisphere because its milky juice has certain special qualities.



Naturalists Needed

► **LITTLE ISLANDS** by the hundred have been dropped into Uncle Sam's lap by the collapse of Japan's far-flung but flimsy ocean empire. For some of them we had to fight fiercely and bloodily, but aside from these key positions there are many other atolls and jutting tops of submarine volcanoes which we shall have to administer.

All these islands have their populations of plant and animal life, and their fringes of swarming marine organisms. Some of these areas are rich in species, some are literally bits of ocean-surrounded desert. But all will prove interesting to anyone who looks at them with the eye of a naturalist—no matter how modest his formal training. The young men of our peace-time Army who may be sent to garrison them can escape island boredom and make really worth-while contributions to knowledge by making collections and studying and photographing the constantly changing life that surrounds them.

Easiest things to collect, probably, are seashells. All you need to do is comb the beach systematically, examining your finds critically and keeping only those that are not cracked or chipped. The more fragile shells should be packed in some soft material. Cotton is ideal, but if that is lacking crumpled paper will do.

Pressed specimens of land plants are easy to prepare, too. A plant press, that will do as good work as any professional botanist's equipment, can be improvised out of pieces of thin crating material and sheets of corrugated cardboard saved from empty cartons. A sheet of ordinary newspaper, folded once, is exactly the right size for the standard herbarium specimen.

If you want to pickle small fish, lizards, and some of the strange animal forms

that swarm in the reef waters, you will need a supply of alcohol or formaldehyde—and these are as a rule not easy to obtain under island conditions. But if you can get them, you needn't worry about museum jars. Empty glass containers of any kind will do—pickle bottles and screw-top jars for the larger specimens, discarded medicine vials for the smaller things.

Simple manuals and guides for collectors have been prepared by a number of museums in this country; most of them can be obtained free. And if you cannot identify your specimens yourself, the museums will be glad to receive duplicate specimens and supply the names from them.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

CHEMISTRY

New Process Offers Uncaked Frozen Foods

► **PACKAGES** of frozen foods need not be solid bricks, as they familiarly are today. They take this form, Frank W. Knowles of Seattle states in the preamble to his patent 2,385,140, because they are put into freezing trays still covered with water from the washer, and this water sticks them together when it turns to ice. In his new process, Mr. Knowles keeps the food pieces constantly agitated, while he passes them first through a nearly saturated atmosphere where each piece becomes covered with an individual glaze of ice or frozen sugar syrup, then through a drier atmosphere where the freezing process is completed. Rights in this patent are assigned to the Beltice Corporation, of Seattle.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

The Alabama *flake-graphite* industry has flourished only in time of war when importations of the material, particularly from Madagascar, have been cut off or greatly curtailed.

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