

Do You Know?

Cellulose ethers were used as soap substitutes in Germany to save edible fats.

Poultry mites, unaffected by DDT, are destroyed by the British Gammexane.

Radishes, water cress, mustard, wall-flowers, stock, and mignonette are closely related.

This year's total hosiery production is supposed to yield 10 pairs of stockings to each woman.

Today farmers use ten times as much nitrogen fertilizer as they did at the beginning of the century.

Food proteins are decomposed in the human digestive tract into their constituent amino acids.

Lack of fertilizers, fuel and transportation facilities, also drought, caused the sharp decrease in last season's sugar output from Europe.

The highly skilled business of producing cauliflower seed, long considered a European secret, was mastered by American growers during the war.

A rectifier that changes alternating current into direct current equally well in very hot and very cold weather has been developed for use on planes and ships.



SNOW WHITE—The mink in the picture has natural colored eyes and "not over 12 dark hairs."

GENETICS

Mink Whiter Than Albino

► BREEDERS of mink have improved on nature. They are making many kinds that nature never heard of before. One is a mink whiter than any albino mink. Another is bluish in color. A third has a purplish tint.

Early breeders of mink sought to get a fur like that of the best skins of the trappers, dark in color. Today mink breeders develop animals with fur of fine texture, but of an exotic shade.

As mink began to be reared in captivity, individual freak animals appeared. Observing breeders, gifted with curiosity, bred them to their near relatives to see what kind of animal would result. Thus originated mutant varieties, mostly lighter in color than the original wild type, state Prof. W. E. Castle of the University of California at Berkeley and Larry Moore, mutation mink breeder, Suamico, Wis.

The fur of the albino mink, with its typical pink eyes, is not a clear white all over the body, as in the case of the ordinary white rabbit. Resembling the albino guinea pig, it usually has a bit of dark coloring at the tip of the tail and on the nose. Some of the original albino minks had coarse fur, but this was overcome by crossbreeding with colored mink of finer fur.

The coat of the Pastel mink, when in full prime, has a slightly purplish tint. In this fur all dark spots that would normally be black in the wild type of coat are brown instead.

Siverblu is the name adopted for one of the most valued and beautiful of the

freak varieties. It is much lighter in shade than wild mink, and both its guard hairs and underfur are bluish in color. Imperial Platinum, another mutation similar in appearance to Silverblu, is distinct in origin and follows different rules of heredity.

The fur of a type known as Koh-i-nur is practically all white, but a dark stripe runs along the middle of the back and a transverse bar of dark hair crosses the shoulders.

Descendants of the Koh-i-nur, receiving the same heredity from both parents, may have only a narrow stripe, interrupted by bits of white. Or the stripe may disappear altogether, leaving dark spots only on the head and tail.

A white variety, but with naturally-colored eyes, may be created by crossing Koh-i-nur with Blufrost, also unique for the small amount of coloring in the coat. While some of the baby mink of such parents are normally dark, about a fourth of them will have a tiny stripe down the back, or none at all, with faint spots on the head and tail only.

If such a light mink is back-crossed to a Koh-i-nur, however, some mink of the next generation will be practically all white with "not over 12 dark hairs," Prof. Castle and Mr. Moore report in the *Journal of Heredity*. When dominant whites are mated to each other, only one-third of the young mink will have the black cross marking, while two-thirds, like their parents, will have only a few stray dark hairs.

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