



GREAT INDIAN HORNBILL—Shown holding a specimen of this bird from Indo-China is S. Dillon Ripley, associate curator of Yale University's Peabody Museum. The bird is one of a "lost" collection recently purchased by Yale.

ORNITHOLOGY

Bird Collection Arrives

➤ OVER 4,000 bird specimens from Indo-China have now arrived at Yale University's Peabody Museum in New Haven, Conn., after being "lost" during the war.

Part of the collection originally built up by Monsieur Andre David-Beaulieu, a civil servant with the French Colonial regime in Indo-China, the birds were believed to have been destroyed when the Siamese were wresting their independence from the French.

Most of the specimens are from Laos, a mountainous and unexplored part of northern Indo-China. S. Dillon Ripley, assistant professor of zoology at Yale and associate curator of the Peabody Museum, learned from a war-time friend, who became an official of the new Siamese government and who was later killed, of a collection of birds in that sector.

After many months of investigation and negotiation with M. David-Beaulieu and the Siamese government, the collection was identified and arrangements made to ship the birds that had not been destroyed—in 1945 there were about 7,000 specimens—to the U. S.

"Even in its reduced state the collection is still the most important single collection from Laos in the United States," Mr. Ripley said. "Thanks to the cooperation of M. David-Beaulieu and of friends in Siam, we

have been able to find a new home for the collection here at Yale."

The story behind the purchase of the birds and their original collection reads much like a cloak-and-dagger thriller, Yale officials state.

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MEDICINE

Electrons Sterilize Arteries

➤ PIECES OF human arteries taken from dead bodies have been frozen and sterilized by high-voltage cathode rays and then successfully grafted to arteries coming from the hearts of two living persons.

The cases are believed the first in which this sterilization procedure for human tissue grafts has been done. They are reported by Drs. Irving A. Meeker, Jr., and Robert E. Cross of Harvard Medical School in Boston, in the journal, *SCIENCE* (Sept. 14).

High-voltage cathode rays have previously been used to kill germs and thus sterilize foods. Adaptation of the method to sterilization of tissues was made with the cooperation of Prof. John Trump of Massachusetts Institute of Technology where the food sterilization method was developed.

For sterilizing tissue for grafting, the tissue must be frozen. This is necessary to

GENERAL SCIENCE

Experts on Danger Areas Listed in Defense Rosters

➤ THE DEFENSE Department is finding out who in this country are experts on foreign areas of potential danger—like Iran, the Far East, eastern Europe. Through the Office of Naval Research it has authorized the listing of something like 40,000 people with M.A. degrees or better who have knowledge that could be useful to the Defense Department.

The American Council of Learned Societies has begun compiling a roster of the nation's language specialists, economists, historians, anthropologists, archaeologists, demographers, international law experts, students of philosophy and religion, political scientists, sociologists and statisticians.

Questionnaires for these groups will particularly seek information on knowledge of foreign countries. Until now, the government has never had this information.

The \$43,000 study is under the direction of Fletcher Wellemeyer, staff adviser on personnel studies of the A. C. L. S. Executive officer will be Dr. Taulman Miller, economist on leave from the University of Indiana.

They will seek cooperation of the learned societies to which these experts belong in achieving as complete a listing as possible. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will analyze the questionnaires. First group to be listed will be the political scientists.

This roster of those in social science and humanities fields will take its place alongside the scientific roster being created by the Office of Education. With these two lists the government will be able to put its finger on almost any kind of expert it needs.

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prevent damage to the tissue by rays strong enough to kill the germs.

The first two patients on whom these frozen irradiated grafts were used had the very serious condition known medically as coarctation of the aorta. The condition is one in which the aorta, big artery from the heart, is greatly narrowed so that the heart has to pump very hard to get any blood through for the rest of the body.

The condition is relieved by an operation in which the narrowed part of the aorta is cut out and the ends stitched together. Sometimes, as in the two cases reported recently, the ends will not meet and a piece of artery from an artery bank must be used to bridge the gap. Supply of material for such purposes has been limited heretofore by the difficulty of getting and keeping artery pieces that are free of germs.

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