



DEEP-WATER CRAB—Found in abundance off the New England coast, a red crab is displayed by William C. Schroeder, leader of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's deep-water fishing exploratory cruise.

MARINE BIOLOGY

Deep-Water Fish

Discover redfish, lobsters and crabs can be fished off New England coast at greater depths than previously reported. Numerous other rare fishes also were taken.

► **DISCOVERIES** OF a new and prolific fishing ground for redfish, plentiful lobsters at greater depths than ever reported and abundant quantities of succulent red crab were reported by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass.

The finds were made off the New England coast during three summer cruises of the 83-foot dragger, the Cap'n Bill II, under the leadership of William C. Schroeder of the Institution and Harvard University.

"A virgin territory" for redfish, the rosefish that is filleted to be sold as "ocean perch," lies southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, in depths greater than 1,800 feet, Mr. Schroeder stated.

Redfish caught there run 30 to 35 fish per bushel and measure 14 to 19 inches long. Most redfish now being brought into port run 10 to 12 inches long.

The most successful lobster hauls, market-sized one and one-half to six pounders, were made south of Martha's Vineyard at about 600-foot depths, Mr. Schroeder states. He estimates that possibly 5,000 pounds of lobsters might be taken with a commercial trawl in several days of fishing.

Crabs with an excellent, sweet taste, which as a canned product should equal any now marketed, were found in large quantities at depths from 1,100 to 3,100 feet during the

entire cruise, from offshore New York to Nova Scotia. The larger ones, Mr. Schroeder reports, weigh one and one-half to two pounds, have a leg spread of about 20 to 24 inches and produce about one-fourth of a pound of meat, mostly in the legs.

Many rare fish were also taken during the deep-water trawling, among them 20 chimaera, a species new to science. The chimaera, a relative of the sharks and skates, lives exclusively in very deep waters. It is rarely caught except in the Pacific.

Among numerous other rare fishes still to be studied, the most remarkable is a bony fish which has defied classification and may represent a new family of fishes.

If the so-called trash fish should become depleted in shallow water, good quantities of long finned hake and grenadiers can be found in depths beyond 900 feet. The small experimental trawls yielded as much as 8 to 10 bushels of these species per haul.

Commercial fishermen fishing in the deeper waters could also expect to catch small numbers of grey sole and an occasional halibut.

Results of the cruises were sufficiently encouraging to plan for additional work during the summer of 1953 when even deeper trawling may be attempted.

Science News Letter, October 11, 1952

MEDICINE

To Treat or Not Is High Blood Pressure Problem

► **THE MOST** important thing in treating patients with high blood pressure is to recognize those patients who either do not need treatment or are likely to be made worse by it, Dr. Robert Sterling Palmer, head of the hypertension clinic, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, declared at the meeting of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia in Washington.

The use of drugs to lower blood pressure is "open to question" in some cases, he said.

In less severe degrees of hypertension, reducing diets for the overweight, milder degrees of salt restriction and sedative drugs all may be advisable.

Psychiatric treatment and rules of hygiene may be most important.

Science News Letter, October 11, 1952

PHYSICS

Battery Made From Nickel, Penny, Paper

► **A NICKEL**, a penny and a piece of moist paper make a tiny but effective battery, an engineer from Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. in Philadelphia has found.

While out in the field, he had to make a quick test of an amplifier, but lacked the usual test equipment. Applying some high school physics, he inserted a one-inch square of moist paper between a copper penny and a nickel five-cent piece. The difference in the electrical properties of the two metals set up a tiny electric current. The current was enough to cause a balancing motor to move in opposite directions when the positions of the amplifier's lead wires on the two coins were reversed. His six-cent battery thus proved the amplifier operative.

Science News Letter, October 11, 1952

SURGERY

Cancer of Esophagus Cured With Skin Graft

► **CANCER** OF the gullet, or esophagus, in the neck can be cured. The cancerous portion of the food passage can be cut out and a new passage made so the patient can eat and swallow.

Skin grafted from the abdomen and skin grafts from the sides of the neck is one way of making a new esophagus in such cases. Four out of 26 patients who have had this operation appeared with Drs. William L. Watson of Memorial Hospital and John M. Convers of Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, New York, at the meeting of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the same city.

One of the patients is a 61-year-old woman, free from disease and able to eat normally 12 years after removal of her cancer. Another has gained 70 pounds within the past three years.

Science News Letter, October 11, 1952