

terminal branches of the tree of life, the million twigs representing the known species of the earth, are reached.

Starting at the "tree trunk," the major divisions living things are classified into are: (1) All living things; (2) kingdom; (3) phylum; (4) class; (5) order; (6) family; (7) genus; and (8) species.

Let us trace *Felis concolor* backward through the tree, to see how the Linnaean system groups and names the principal divisions of living things.

Tracing One Classification

The outermost twig is the species—*concolor*, in this case. The species twig arose from a larger branch, the genus—*Felis*. Several genera (plural of genus) make up a family. The family branch from which *Felis* sprouted is called Felidae.

A group of families make up an order. The Felidae are members of the order Carnivora, or "meat eaters." This order includes such families as the Hyaenidae (hyaenas), Canidae (dogs), and Ursidae (bears).

Several orders form a class. The Carni-

vora are in the class Mammalia, which great group of animals is chiefly characterized by the presence of mammary glands on the females which give milk for the young. Man himself (*Homo sapiens*) belongs to the class Mammalia.

The next great branching—phylum—is made up of classes. The class Mammalia, along with Amphibia (frogs, newts), Reptilia (snakes, lizards), Aves (birds), and several classes of fishes are included in the phylum Chordata (or Vertebrata).

A combination of phyla makes up one of the two great branches of life—the plant and the animal kingdoms. They in turn comprise the whole of living things.

So we have traced *Felis concolor* over the broad pattern of classification used by scientists everywhere, from his place as a distinct kind of life, a species, to a point where he is related to all living things. The outline of plant and animal classification parallels in general the course of evolution, through which a single undifferentiated living cell gave rise to the million forms of life known so far to science.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1953

PUBLIC SAFETY

Preventing Accidents

► "ACCIDENTS ARE the number one crippler of children under five years old in the United States today," declares Lawrence J. Linck, executive director of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

Preventing such accidents is the responsibility of parents but "over-protection" is not the answer, in Mr. Linck's opinion. He urges careful teaching of children combined with "intelligent precaution."

Because most accidents happen to children under five in the home, he listed the following steps in accident prevention:

1. Children should be taught early in life that fires burn them; falls hurt them; poisons make them ill, and knives and scissors cut them.

2. Poisons, disinfectants and medicine

should be kept in locked cabinets or high out of the child's reach.

3. Children should be shown the dangers of bonfires and matches and how to avoid them, but at the same time fireplaces should be screened and matches kept out of reach of toddlers.

4. Handles of kitchen pots should be turned toward the back of the stove and out of the reach of children.

5. Guns, if kept in the house at all, should be put away unloaded and under lock and key.

6. Children should be taught how to walk carefully with sharp knives, scissors and glass containers, as soon as they are able to understand the dangers of such things. Until that time make sure sharp instruments are safely put away.

7. Children should be guarded from perilous climbs and from dangerous ledges and stairs. Screens should be fastened securely with screening nailed tightly to frame.

Science News Letter, July 11, 1953

PHYSIOLOGY

Supercharging Fails to Aid Athletes' Recovery

► ATTEMPTS TO speed recovery of college athletes from exhaustion after violent exercise by having them breathe pure oxygen, a so-called oxygen supercharging, were labeled "useless" in a report by Dr. Sid Robinson, Indiana University professor of physiology, at the meeting of the National Collegiate Track Coaches Association in Lincoln, Nebr. (See SNL, Feb. 21, p. 119.)

Science News Letter, July 11, 1953

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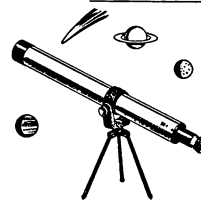
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