

A SHORT HISTORY OF ANATOMY FROM THE GREEKS TO HARVEY—Charles Singer—Dover, 209 p., illus., paper, \$1.75. An unabridged republication of the 1957 edition.

SNAKES IN FACT AND FICTION—James A. Oliver—Macmillan, 199 p., illus., \$4.95. By the curator of reptiles at the New York Zoological Society.

STANDARD METHODS OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY: Volume II—David Seligson, Ed.—Academic, 217 p., graphs, \$5.50. Describing methods useful to the clinical chemist.

THE THEORY OF FUNCTIONS OF A REAL VARIABLE AND THE THEORY OF FOURIER'S SERIES: Volume I—E. W. Hobson—Dover, 3d ed., 736 p., paper, \$6. New edition for students of the work published in 1921. It first appeared in one volume in 1907.

THE THEORY OF FUNCTIONS OF A REAL VARIABLE AND THE THEORY OF FOURIER'S SERIES: Volume II—E. W. Hobson—Dover, 778 p., paper, \$3.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

ENTOMOLOGY

"Scent Waves" Lure Insects to Their Doom

► ENTICING "scent waves" are luring insect pests to their doom.

The wandering gypsy moth or hungry Mediterranean fruit fly may think it is on the trail of a female moth—or a good dinner—but chances are the scent is a trap. The smell is probably one of many natural and synthetic attractants developed by U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists as weapons to combat insect pests.

The attractant can be used in two main ways: it lures the insect to baited traps or, mixed with insecticides, lures the insect to eat the deadly bait. USDA scientists used the first method in their gypsy moth eradication program in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Male moths were lured from distances of at least a half mile. Trapped, they provided scientists with means of checking just how successful insecticide sprays were when applied this season. Future estimates of needs for spraying can be made.

Chemists are screening hundreds of natural plant materials and many organic synthetics in the hope of turning up new attractants. Common weeds, obnoxious plants, vegetables and flowers are all being investigated.

When working with synthetics, the chemists usually begin without knowing if they will find an attractant. Sometimes 100 or more related compounds will be tested to make sure no possibility is overlooked. In this way scientists prepared three related organic compounds, each one better than the last, to use as attractants in Florida's battle against the Mediterranean fruit fly. The best one, also being used to replace the natural attractant angelica-seed oil, is the sec-butyl ester of 6-methyl-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxylic acid.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

Funkiko, Formosa, holds the rainfall record for two days at 65.8 inches and for three days at 81.5 inches, both established in the same storm in 1913.

ENTOMOLOGY

Insect Danger May Grow

► INSECT PESTS, if not surplus crops, may soon be troubling the farmer who participates in the Soil Bank Program and keeps some of his acreage out of production.

Grasshoppers, aphids, cutworms, leafhoppers and Japanese beetles are some of the destructive insects that are likely to thrive on this reserve land.

"General surveillance" has become the watchword for Federal, state and local scientists studying insect conditions.

Some 28,000,000 acres of reserve land offer a great deal to insect pests. Numbers of cutworms, wireworms, European chafer, corn flea beetles are likely to build up in sod or fallow land and damage crops planted later.

Thrips and aphids probably will increase on the grasses and soil-building legumes substituted for basic crops. The pea aphid, for example, develops on alfalfa and may migrate to and severely damage peas.

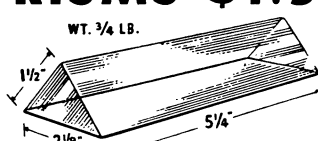
The probable increase in destructive insects will be aided by favorable host plants, greater variety of food plants and a more generally desirable habitat which includes more trees planted under the conservation reserve part of the Soil Bank Program.

Some beneficial insects, such as bees and insect parasites and predators, can be expected to profit from the undisturbed land. Reserve acreage might also be useful as trap crop areas. Migratory insects could be controlled by spraying fields when they moved in.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture points out that nationwide observation of insect conditions has become more important. The problem is not a matter of local control. It will also be essential to keep larger areas informed on "significant changes" in insect populations.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

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