

of mice or rats, there is an additional charge of 75 cents for a container.

Hamsters are \$30.00 per dozen.

Any of these unusual pets should be the envy of the neighborhood children. (13)

### Make Your Own Models

The well known mail-order houses seem to offer a wider array of scientific toys each Christmas. One such item in this year's selection is a Vac-U-Form for making plastic models. Usable in any 110-120 volt 60-cycle AC outlet, the set comes complete with instruction book, 65 sheets of colored plastic, 50 molds and other equipment, for \$8.55. Refill material packs are 88¢ each. (14)

Most persons do more reading in winter, and Christmas is a good time to supply friends with good books for the coming months.

The full range of science is covered in an excellent series of paperbacks by one publisher (15), probably available in your local bookstore, or in small towns a librarian can help you select the titles and find the sources for ordering. Especially good for youngsters is a set of books available at \$1.00 each consisting of such titles as Rocks and Minerals, Weather, Reptiles and Amphibians, Birds, Stars, Seashores, Mammals, Flowers, Insects, Fishes, Trees, and Photography. These are readily available, and have even been seen in supermarkets.

Among new offerings this year is a paperback by Judith Viorst called 150 Science Experiments Step-by-Step. This well rounded collection, many of them classics, is available for 60¢ plus five cents postage. (11)

Dr. Watson Davis, director of SCIENCE SERVICE, tells of the fantastic progress of science and technology this century, in a new volume called, appropriately enough, The Century of Science. With more than 200 vivid and historic illustrations, this hardback edition is available for \$5.95. (11)

For year-round reading, gift subscriptions to magazines are always well received. Again, your librarian can help you locate publishers of scientific and technical journals.

Even non-scientific men and women will enjoy scientific jewelry. There is a variety of diffraction-grating pins, pendants, necklaces, tie clasps, cuff links, bracelets, and money clips available; and the miniature slide rule tie clasps still are popular. (7)

The problem, again this year, is not that of finding a suitable gift. The difficulty is in choosing from many attractive alternatives.

This article is not advertising. Most of the items listed can be found locally. The suppliers are listed below as a service to our readers:

1. Heath Company, Benton Harbor, Mich.
2. Wards Natural Science Establishment, P.O. Box 1712, Rochester 3, N. Y. or P.O. Box 1749, Monterey, Calif.
3. Caro Crafts Corp., 195 Mineola Blvd., Mineola, N. Y.
4. Science Education Center, 3107 East Central, Wichita, Kansas.
5. Central Scientific Co., 1700 Irving Park Road, Chicago 13, Ill.
6. Science Materials Center, 59 4th Ave., New York 3, N. Y.

7. Edmund Scientific Co., Barrington, N. J.
8. Renwal, Mineola, N. Y.
9. Kohner Bros., Inc., 155 Wooster St., New York 12, N. Y.
10. ESR, Inc., 350 Main St., Orange, N. J.
11. Science Service, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.
12. Bausch & Lomb, Inc., 635 St. Paul St., Rochester 2, N. Y.
13. Carolina Biological Supply Co., Burlington, N. C.
14. Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, Ill., and other cities.
15. New American Library, 501 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022.

• Science News Letter, 84:298 Nov. 9, 1963

### ENTOMOLOGY

## Three Harmless Moths Recorded in Delaware

► THREE new species of moths have been recorded in counties of Delaware for the first time.

The pretty black and white grass moth, *Crambus elegans*, offers no threat to Delaware crops, but in the South has been known to eat corn and sugar cane.

The chrysaugid moth, *Galasa nigrinodis*, is also not harmful. With soft red and sometimes green wings, this moth is basically small, less than an inch and a half.

The noctuid night creature, *Bomolocha abalienalis*, is part of a large group extending through the eastern and southwestern United States to California, according to insect officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Although this species is not considered harmful, other members of the family are known as major economic pests, such as the corn ear worm. The forewing of this moth is either dark or pale brown, with white lines extending out toward the edge.

• Science News Letter, 84:299 Nov. 9, 1963

## Nature Note

► WANDERERS in the woods may get an early glimpse of one of nature's strangest sights—appropriately named for this time of year—the witch hazel bush.

This weird and ghostly shrub with its tousled clusters of twisted yellow flowers chooses to bloom in November and December, long after nature's other flowers have gone to bed, and again in late February and March.

The witch hazel grows anywhere from eight to 12 feet tall, and its strange beauty is best illuminated on the slopes of deep shaded ravines or in heavily wooded forest thickets.

Pollination occurs late in the year and the fruit and seeds take nearly a year to ripen. At maturity, the nut-like fruit capsule bursts like a popgun, hurling the little black seeds far and wide like so many cannonballs.

The shrub gets its name from the ancient use of forked wands of the European witch hazel as dousing rods or divining rods, used in seeking water and buried treasure.

• Science News Letter, 84:299 Nov. 9, 1963

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