

and appropriate course, hazard, distance and par information for each hole—patent 3,130,973 to Argentine C. Zapolski, Hawthorne, Calif.

A washcloth, with a pocket for soap, designed especially for washing the back—patent 3,130,441 to Wilbur D. Hahn, Sidney, Ohio.

An air-cushion dashboard that protects passengers from injury in an accident—patent 3,130,807 to Bobby R. McHenry, Kansas City, Kans.

An electric jump-rope game for teaching children coordination—patent 3,130,970 to Eugene C. Hutsell, Seattle, Wash.

• Science News Letter, 85:318 May 16, 1964

## GENERAL SCIENCE

## Animated Movie Tells Of Stars and Men

► **THE FIRST MOVIE** of its kind, an animated color film telling of space and time, matter and energy, had its world premier in New York on April 28.

The cartoon-like movie is based on the book, "Of Stars and Men," by Dr. Harlow Shapley, retired director of Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. Although the film primarily lets its spectacular color pictures speak for themselves, Dr. Shapley acts as narrator upon occasion. Its title is the same as the book, which has been translated into six languages including Russian, Hindi and Polish.

The movie was made "as a work of love" by Dr. John Hubley and his wife, Faith Eliot, of Storyboard, Inc., New York, Dr. Shapley told SCIENCE SERVICE. Dr. Hubley formerly worked with Walt Disney in making such animated movies as "Pinocchio."

Next fall, Dr. Shapley said, Beacon Press will bring out a deluxe edition of the book, "Of Stars and Men," containing some of the color photographs used in the film.

• Science News Letter, 85:319 May 16, 1964

## BIOCHEMISTRY

## Fluorides Show Promise Of Helping Bone Disease

► **FLUORIDES**, which harden tooth enamel, are believed to have a pain-relieving effect on a destructive bone disease of old age called osteoporosis.

Dr. Daniel S. Bernstein of Harvard Medical School and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, told a meeting in Philadelphia that a "significant" number of patients treated with fluoride who have osteoporosis have reported appreciable reduction in bone pain. Their brittle bones get hard.

When fluoride is given by mouth, X-rays show that the bone crystals become larger and therefore harder. Evidence suggests, Dr. Bernstein said, that fluoride decreases both the bone formation rate as well as the resorption, or break down, rate.

Dr. Bernstein spoke at a seminar on anabolism and catabolism, which are phases of metabolism. The meeting was sponsored by Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia.

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## Nature Note

### Ovenbird

► **IN THE QUIET** of a spring night you may hear, if you live near the woods, the ecstatic flight song of the ovenbird. He is seldom seen as he leaves his perch to fly, for he and his mate are very shy, but his lovely song is easily recognized by its familiar teacher, teacher, teacher ending.

The ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*, sings in the spring to establish his territory in the woods. Like many birds, the ovenbirds in an area set up well defined boundaries for the area in which each pair may nest and hunt for food. Probably each bird recognizes the individual songs of his neighbors.

Once the territory is set up, the female builds her nest on the ground. First she intertwines grass and twigs into a base. Then she carefully selects long strips of bark, grass and leaves to build three sides and a roof, which will keep her and her eggs safe from wind, rain and sun.

You may see her walking about on pink legs among the leaves near her "oven" nest. She is a sparrow-sized ground bird, a member of the warbler family. Olive brown above, white streaked with black beneath, and with a dull orange patch on the crown of her head, she resembles a small thrush.

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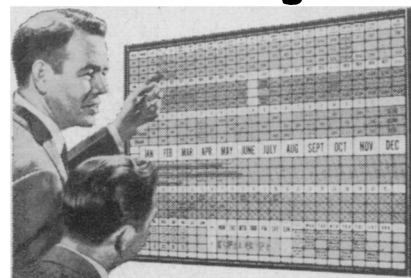
## Do You Know?

A harmless dust, fluoridated silica gel, blown into cavities of attic and floor boards during house construction is reported to provide indefinite protection against termites, cockroaches, silverfish and other household insects.

The green peach *aphid* is probably the most serious pest of peppers in the United States.

• Science News Letter, 85:319 May 16, 1964

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