

speckled with flying foxes, as more and more rise from the mangroves.

After a while, they land on another part of the mangroves along the river. The shooters, in motor boats, pursue them. They fire a few more shots and again all the bats are airborne and too high to hit.

In disorganized flights they shift to another part of the mangroves, land and hang themselves head-downwards from tree-limbs.

Some fruit-growers shoot flying foxes at night using spotlights to see them, but this, too, is an unprofitable or deficient method.

After a few shots, the winged bats are gone.

Bounties are offered—three pence a bat is paid in some Queensland shires on presentation of a pair of clawed feet—but they are too small to act as an incentive to hunters. The use of poison is discouraged.

Ordinarily, the flying foxes move out of their camps at dusk. On certain nights, mainly after rain, vast hoards of the bats can be seen flying silently overhead towards the fruit-bearing native trees and the orchards.

They are as agile as monkeys on the tree-tops, clambering up and down

the limbs rapidly and easily, attacking the fruits with their sharp teeth.

The wing of a flying fox, like the wing of other bats, is really the arm on which a wide membrane has grown. The arm forms the upper support of the wing membrane, while the enormously enlarged fingers support the rest. One claw protrudes from each arm and is used for climbing, like a human climber uses a piton or steel spike. The claws in the feet are usually used for hanging, and so the head-downwards position is adopted for resting.

Few people in tropical Australia have a good word for the flying fox.

Because of the damage it may cause to fruit trees, it is not a popular animal.

But there is no doubt that things could be much worse if the flying fox were a prolific breeder. Fortunately, each female produces, as a rule, only one young at a time which she carries with her on food-getting expeditions at night.

The tribal Aborigine is perhaps the only Australian who may have a good word for the flying fox.

He eats it, as do various Pacific Islanders, and claims it to be a delicacy. It's an ill wind. . . .

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

## Home Heaters Blamed For Air Pollution

► HOME HEATING plants and backyard incinerators must share heavily in the blame for our present-day air pollution, an industry executive said.

Only 10% of the dustfall in a city like Chicago can be traced to industrial plants, said Edward C. Logelin, a vice president of United States Steel Corporation at a meeting of real estate counsellors in Lake Geneva, Wis.

"The remaining 90% is spread over such sources as traffic, open fires, wind-blown dust from the farms and prairies of the Middle West, rubbish thrown in the streets, improper fuel and faulty combustion of home heating plants," he said.

He noted that the dustfall increased tremendously in Chicago during the winter months, due to the use of home heating equipment, and said that backyard incinerators and leaf burning were major causes of pollution.

"The single incinerator in your backyard or mine may not seem much of a menace to cleaner air," he said. "Multiply them by thousands, however, and toss in smoldering bonfires of garden and other refuse, and you have quite a problem in air pollution; one which, in fact, makes industrial air pollution control simple by comparison."

Mr. Logelin called for a concerted effort on the part of householders, industry, municipalities and public institutions to bring about effective air pollution control. He cited a recent Cleaner Air Week program in Chicago as an example of an attempt to make the public aware of the necessity of clean air.

#### GENERAL SCIENCE

## Science Magazine Issued In Spanish for Schools

► SCIENCE students in U.S. high schools who do not have good command of English will be able to pursue their interests by reading a new magazine published in Spanish.

"Revista iberoamericana de Educacion Quimica," called an "experiment" in science education, will carry a collection of articles from several magazines including Chemistry, Journal of Chemical Education, Chemical and Engineering News and probably original articles in future issues.

Quarterly Publication of Educacion Quimica is directed by the American Chemical Society under a grant from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Prof. Jose Gomez-Ibanez of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., is the editorial director of the program.

#### SOCIOLOGY

## Birth Control vs Status

► THE INTIMATE link between birth control and the status of women drew comments from representatives of two countries whose attitudes toward women could hardly be more divergent—Egypt and Denmark.

In nine short months Egypt has set up birth control services in 2,200 health centers, and has now joined the ranks of some 20 other nations with national programs for fertility control, said Mrs. Aziza Hussein, Egypt's delegate to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women.

But the program's success depends on changes in the status of Egyptian women, Mrs. Hussein told the Planned Parenthood—World Population conference in New York.

Many women, she said, "try to keep their hold over their husbands by having too many children," thus "clipping the husband's wings," so that he will feel compelled to stay with his wife.

Egyptian laws still give husbands the sole right of divorce and the right to marry more than one wife, Mrs. Hussein pointed out.

These laws are now being vigorously contested by women's organizations in Egypt.

She warned that if Egypt's population continues to grow at its present rate, the completion of the Aswan High Dam, 10 years from now, will have no

effect at all on the per capita share of land—though it will increase arable land by one million acres.

In Denmark, on the other hand, birth control is a widely accepted principle. Yet, Denmark still has no general program for guiding the entire population on the use of contraceptives, Mrs. Nathalie Lind, Member of Parliament and president of the Danish Women's Association, said.

Freedom from the specter of unwanted pregnancy is essential to the liberation of women, she said.

It is the first step toward enabling the woman to "benefit from her education and create a career for herself."

Denmark has adopted the principle of equality between men and women in theory, but not yet in practice, Mrs. Lind stated.

Mrs. Lind said she would hesitate to recommend full legalized abortion as an answer to birth control.

In Denmark, abortions can be given only for medical or socio-medical reasons, never for social reasons, she emphasized.

The U.S. Ambassador to Denmark, Mrs. Katherine White, asked that the fact be stressed in order to relieve her from answering the many letters she has received from American women requesting help in setting up consultations with Danish physicians, Mrs. Lind said.