

ICHTHYOLOGY

Snails Enemies of Fish

The humble pond snail has been indicted as one of the criminals whose activities have interfered with the peace and welfare and the family life of our fresh water fishes. Ichthyologists generally have been unable to explain why so few of the hundreds of thousands of eggs laid by each female among the fresh water fish ever reach maturity.

In a life history study of the long-eared sunfish carried on at the Indiana University Biological Station at Winona Lake, Indiana, observations were made each day of the troubles of a vigilant male sunfish trying to guard his nest with its precious eggs.

Long Ear, who is rather long on pugnacity, had very little trouble with the larger fish. They had seemed to have learned their lesson of the purpose and use of the Long Ear's fin spines and remained at a respectful distance. Minnows lingered in a persistent swarm and darted into the nest every time the warrior's attention was diverted but their activities were more of a nuisance than a vital menace.

The greatest difficulty the harassed father sunfish had was the insidious advance of the tank corps of snails. The sunfish could not kill the snails because of their protective shells but had to pick them up and carry them away from the nest one at a time. But by the time he was transporting one, half a dozen others would crawl in among the eggs and eat their fill.

Several thousand eggs and a few snails were put in a bucket over night. In the morning all the eggs had disappeared and an examination of the snails' stomachs did not leave even a scientific doubt as to where they had gone.

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HYGIENE—EDUCATION

University for Tuberculous

An international university in the Swiss Alps is being urged, to aid students who are trying to complete their education, while they fight tuberculosis. There are said to be in Europe 15,000 of these tuberculous students who are attending school in unfavorable climates.

A university sanatorium for Swiss student-patients has been in existence for five years at Leysin. A committee of international student associations has worked out a plan to turn this university into an international institution at Davos. The proposed Alpine university would be financed by contributions from the governments whose people would benefit by the project.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Introvert and Extravert

By TRIGANT BURROW

I am not in sympathy with the implication in the discrimination of types demarcated as "introvert" and "extravert." These terms imply, as they are meant to imply, an essential difference of type rather than a circumstantial difference of reaction. In general the extravert is rather approvingly regarded in the light of a "jolly good fellow," as contrasted with the introvert whose disaffection, on the contrary, tends to be regarded with an undisguised slant. As if the jolly good-fellowship of the hysterical type, with all its aggressiveness and ebullience, were not as truly a substitutive alternative resultant upon repression as is the reaction of his more silent, ingrown confrère of the opposite type! As if the affable, effervescent type were not as truly "shut-out" as his psychological vis-à-vis is "shut-in"! Psychiatry has a great deal to say about the shut-in type of personality but it has nothing to say about the shut-out type of personality. Yet of the two the latter is by no means a less serious form of dissociation, and certainly it is by far the more widespread in its results.—Quotation from *The Social Basis of Consciousness*—Harcourt Brace.

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OPHTHALMOLOGY

Sky Glare Cut By Glasses

A new type of dark glasses for outdoor wear at tennis, golf and other sports, and said to be especially useful for auto drivers at night when meeting cars with glaring headlights, has been produced in the optical works of the Zeiss firm at Jena. The basis for the new eye protection consists of two wedge-shaped pieces of glass fused together. The upper member of the pair is made of a dark, gray-brown glass, while the lower part is clear and uncolored. Goggles made from this material are thus very dark at the top, shading off gradually into clear glass at the lower edge. This arrangement cuts off the glare of the sky, while permitting an unclouded view of the ground. Motorists, encountering glaring headlights, simply duck their heads a little and look through the tops of their goggles until the offending car has passed, when they again make use of their normal vision through the lower parts of the glasses.

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HYGIENE

Bright Boys Best Athletes

The boys that win scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge are not "greasy grinds" interested in trigonometry and Latin alone, but are as good athletes as they are scholars, recent investigations show.

Dr. A. H. Mumford, medical officer of the Manchester Grammar School, recently reported to the Royal Anthropological Institute that boys winning first class honors exceeded the average in acceleration in growth of chest girth, height and weight, and have a slightly better physical frame.

A list drawn up of boys who had been awarded "colors" for prowess in football, cricket, swimming, running and the like showed that there were about 700 chances for exhibiting special excellence among 7,000 boys. Seventy-three of the 700 awards were won by 215 boys of special mental ability. This means that the best students took about one-tenth of the athletic honors and that one boy in three of the mental "sharks" was also a good athlete.

The degree of mental excellence seemed to be fairly proportionate to the degree of physical excellence. Out of the 73 athletic awards achieved by this group, 45 went to the 27 winning first class honors, 18 to 14 boys in the next group and only nine to the six boys in the third group.

These figures, Dr. Mumford asserted, tend to show that the growth of the human frame should be viewed as a unity and not as one of mind or body alone.

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AGRICULTURE

New Chinese Cotton

A new variety of cotton, which has been given the American-sounding name of "Million-Dollar Cotton," has been bred in China, and promises to make that country at least partially independent of foreign sources of high-quality, long-stapled cotton, which must now be imported. The native varieties now universally cultivated in China all have short staple or fiber, which does not permit the weaving of high grade fabrics of normal strength.

Dr. J. B. Griffing, of the University of Nanking, reports the new variety to the *Journal of Heredity*, of Washington, D. C. He states that the new variety originated with a single plant which he discovered some years ago, as the result of a search among the very much mixed fields of Chinese cotton.

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