



Airplane Roundups

► PRONGHORN antelope, fastest things that run on four legs on this continent, have been very successfully rounded up by airplane, for transplantation in trucks to new places on the range. Lee William Fisher of the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission tells how, in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* (July).

Pronghorn transplantation is desirable, Mr. Fisher explains, because while the fleet little animals get along excellently with cattle on their range, they simply don't "mix" with sheep. So it is the practice so far as possible to remove them from sheep country and release them on cattle lands, where they are welcome.

First round-ups of pronghorn in Texas were carried out by men on horseback. However, the method proved slow and rather costly.

Mr. Fisher had noticed, during airplane flights made for the purpose of counting pronghorn herds, that the animals would run away from the sound of the motor. So he tried some experiments, and soon learned that small pronghorn herds could be bunched into one big herd, and then "drifted" in any desired direction, by flying a plane on the opposite side, at heights between 50 and 500 feet. A small, low-powered slow-speed plane was found most suitable for the purpose, as well as very economical to operate.

The herds are "drifted" into a big wire corral, and driven from that into a smaller pen made of strong cord. From this they are removed and examined, weighed, and loaded into trucks for transportation to their new homes.

Since adoption of this method, Mr. Fisher states, 467 animals have been

trapped and transported, with a loss of only three killed. The whole cost for

each animal was only about \$4.30.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Tuberculosis Deaths Up

Increases since the war in Paris, England, Wales, Scotland and Canada, are indicated by authentic figures. Alarming Increases in China, Greece and Low Countries.

► AUTHENTIC figures showing increases in tuberculosis deaths since the war in Paris, England, Wales, Scotland and Canada have been obtained by the National Tuberculosis Association.

Tuberculosis deaths in Paris during the first six months of 1941 increased 10% over the deaths in the first half of 1939, and TB deaths among children from one to nine years increased 28%, the Association learned. This increase is "doubly significant" because the city's population, as shown by the number of food ration cards, decreased by 14%. Requests for sputum examinations in Paris laboratories increased greatly. The average number of positive results, that is, a result showing presence of tuberculosis germs in the sputum, increased from 59.1 per 100,000 examinations in 1939 to 211 per 100,000 in 1941.

The United States is the only nation so far unaffected by a war increase in tuberculosis, so far as authentic reports show. The 1941 rate was 44.4 cases per 100,000 population, a decline from the 45.9 per 100,000 figure of 1940, and preliminary data for 1942 indicate a continued slight decline in the TB death rate for our first year of war.

"Unconfirmed, but repeated, press reports emphasize a pronounced recent increase in the incidence of tuberculosis, diphtheria and scarlet fever in Germany," the association states in its current Bulletin. "Detailed reports signed by accredited physicians or statisticians covering vital statistics in Germany for the past year or two are not available."

Alarming increases in the disease have also been reported from China, Greece, the Low Occupied Countries and Poland, but no authoritative figures are available.

No significant reports on tuberculosis from Russia, Italy or Finland could be found by the association's statistical service.

Between 1939-1941 tuberculosis deaths in England and Wales increased 10%.

In Scotland the increase was even higher, 18%. Canada reports an increase in the tuberculosis death rate in 1941 of 5% over the 1940 rate, adding that this is the first appreciable increase in the disease in that country in 15 years.

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PHARMACY

American Atabrine Proves Identical to Foreign Drug

► CONTROVERSY over whether atabrine, the anti-malarial just made official in this country, is identical and equal to the original product developed in Germany, has now been settled in favor of America's chemists.

A report issued by the National Research Council establishes the fact that the drug manufactured in this country is comparable in every respect with that produced in other countries, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Nov. 14).

Atabrine, chemically known as quina-craine, is now in mass production as a substitute for war-scarce quinine using the process developed abroad. But chemists here have also found their way through the intricate steps of chemical synthesis which produce the bright yellow crystals used to combat malarial fever.

Unpleasant side-actions sometimes accompanying the administration of the drug led to the suspicion that there might be defects in the manufacturing process or impurities present. Doubts have been dispelled by investigations in leading institutions throughout the country which indicate that these minor difficulties are inherent in the atabrine itself, as occurs in many standard medicines.

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"*Khaki*" is the Hindu word for "dusty" or "dust-colored," derived from the Persian word "khak," meaning dust.