

materials contain, they are all valuable for heat insulation in such things as refrigerator walls, the sides and roofs of houses, and around steam and water pipes. Because they are very light, they can be used also for packing material in carrying vessels that help keep their contents either cold or hot. Moreover, they will cushion the inner container against jars and jolts in transit.

Science News Letter, February 20, 1943

MEDICINE

Injury Factor Discovered Which Induces Inflammation

► DISCOVERY of a chemical, tentatively named necrosin, which induces the inflammation that occurs in various conditions, is announced by Dr. Valy Menkin, of Harvard Medical School (*Science*, Feb. 12).

Besides the redness and swelling which the layman recognizes as signs of inflammation, there are other disturbances of the body cells recognized by scientists. These inflammatory changes all follow the same pattern, regardless of what part of the body is inflamed or what injury or disease germ started the inflammation. Search for the underlying factor that causes the cell injury which results in inflammation led to discovery of necrosin.

Necrosin has not yet been chemically identified but is associated with a protein called euglobulin. Dr. Menkin found necrosin in exudates from dogs and man like, for example, the exudate in inflammations such as pleurisy.

Science News Letter, February 20, 1943

WILDLIFE

Wildlife Ups Meat Supply

Former delicacies such as venison, wild duck and reindeer are now being used to take the place of scarce beef, pork and lamb.

► VENISON, wild duck, mountain trout: these and other gourmets' dainties in times of abundance have become items of straight-out nutrition now that meat rationing is upon us. How to make the most of our wild game and fish resources without endangering the necessary breeding stocks was discussed from all possible angles by leaders in wildlife research and administration at the eighth North American Wildlife Conference in Denver.

The war has brought many new problems to the men who watch over the mammals and birds of our woldlands and the fish of our streams and lakes. Hunters' ammunition supplies have been "frozen", new fishing tackle is not being made, many sportsmen are in the armed services or too busy in war work to go hunting and fishing, new populations have migrated into hitherto sparsely inhabited places in the West, game surpluses threaten to multiply to the mass starvation point if not shot down to normal levels—these are only a few of the headaches which the members of the Conference tried to alleviate in their discussions.

Science News Letter, February 20, 1943

Reindeer Steaks for Army

► ONE BIG-GAME surplus that turns out to be a piece of good fortune for the U. S. Army is the overpopulation of reindeer on Nunivak island, off the coast of Alaska. From fewer than 200 animals planted there shortly after the first World War, the herd on the island has increased to an estimated 19,000. The available browse will support only about 10,000, so the surplus must be killed off. The situation was described by Clifford C. Presnall of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who is in charge of wildlife on Indian lands.

The program calls for the killing of all buck fawns of the 1943 crop, Mr. Presnall told his audience; their hides will be used in making sleeping bags and mukluks (Eskimo type boots). Surplus adults will be killed, beginning next fall, until the herd is down to 10,000 head. Meat will be supplied to

the armed forces so far as required, and the rest will be made available for civilian use through regular market channels.

Science News Letter, February 20, 1943

Surplus Elk Goes to Indians

► YELLOWSTONE PARK has long had a problem in the increase of the two elk herds that pasture within its boundaries in summer and migrate down-valley in winter, stated Victor H. Cahalane, National Park Service naturalist. There is no hunting in any national park, so that the animals are protected as long as they stay inside. The surplus, therefore, can be kept down by hunting only when the elk migrate out in the winter.

Recent winters have been mild, and the elk have stayed within park boundaries most of the time. Add to this the severe damage their natural forage suffered during the droughts of the mid-1930's, and you have the makings of severe difficulties for the Park Service wildlife administrators.

During the present winter, cooperation of state and national agencies, favored by weather and other factors, has made possible a total reduction of 7,230 elk, nearly a tenth of which were killed within the park by rangers under official instruction. The meat was utilized by the Indians, and to some extent by Montana residents.


Science News Letter, February 20, 1943

Game Slaughter Opposed

► PROPOSALS to treat surplus game as meat animals, simply killing them en masse to get rid of surpluses, were opposed by Ross Leonard, director of the Utah Fish and Game Department. It is better, Mr. Leonard held, to permit the time-tried method of licensed and controlled hunting to reduce the size of the herd. Exceptions may occasionally be made, as where elk become locally too numerous and take to raiding ranchers' haystacks too persistently.

The speaker recognized factors that may operate against a normal hunting

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