



Mistaken Kindness

► FEEDING HAY to hungry deer in the depth of winter may seem like a most appealing kind of charity; but it is a most mistaken kindness, Arthur H. Carhart of the Colorado Game and Fish Commission told the meeting of the Eighth North American Wildlife Conference.

Grasses and other herbs just aren't the natural food of deer, the speaker pointed out. Many deer have died with their bellies full of good alfalfa and prepared stock feed, he declared. They were found dying after they had had all the alfalfa they cared to eat for two months or more.

Mr. Carhart and his associates discovered by detailed examination of the contents of hundreds of stomachs of animals killed by hunters that the natural food of deer is almost exclusively the buds and tender tip-twigs and leaves—what wildlife men called "browse." More than 97% of the material in the stomachs examined consisted of this browse. About 2% was weeds. Only a fraction of one per cent was grass or hay.

Best wildlife management, therefore, would seem to demand that the money now being lavished on hay and prepared feeds for winter handouts to the deer be saved, and invested instead in brushland that will produce a maximum of natural browse.

The rather general assumption that deer tend to increase in embarrassing numbers because mountain lions, wolves and other predators have been killed off is not necessarily justified, Allan C. Randle of the Utah Department of Fish and Game cautioned his audience. In parts of his state, predators as well as deer are given total protection against hunting; yet despite this near-natural

state of affairs the size of the deer herds is becoming a problem.

Mr. Randle did not undertake to state the answer to his riddle; he just placed it before the meeting as a factor in game management that wildlife administrators cannot afford to ignore.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1943

MEDICINE

\$1000 Award for Research On Alcoholism During 1943

► A PRIZE of \$1000 for outstanding research on alcoholism during 1943 is

offered by the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol, Dr. I. Ogden Woodruff, chairman of the board of directors, announced.

Any scientist in the United States, Canada or Latin America is eligible for the award. The research must contribute new knowledge in some branch of medicine, biology, or sociology important to the understanding, prevention or treatment of alcoholism. A report on the work and resulting conclusions must be submitted on or before Feb. 15, 1944.

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Keeping 'Em Up... Bringing 'Em Down



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