



Dodging Destruction

➤ SNOWSHOE HARES should be consulted before planting pines and other conifers on areas to be reforested in northern states. This is not a recommendation for a return to ancient oracular practices; it is purely a matter of statistics.

The recommendation comes from Clarence M. Aldous of the U. S. Forest Service and Shaler E. Aldous of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is one of the results of a five-year study of problems connected with getting new forests to grow where old ones have vanished, in the Lake States area. (*Journal of Forestry*, February)

The snowshoe hare, species found only in the North, gets its name from its over-size hind feet, which enable it to lollop along on top of loose snow. It was not regarded as a serious nuisance until about a generation ago, when its habit of nipping off the buds and young

shoots of planted conifers in areas where reforestation was being undertaken began to cost real money.

Like a good many wild mammal species, the snowshoe hare has its ups and downs. At about ten-year intervals, its numbers build up to a peak, remaining high for three or four years. Then something, apparently an obscure disease, causes a very rapid dying-off, after which the population remains at a low point for half-a-dozen years, until the upturn in the cycle returns.

Significant harm to plantations of young

trees is done only during the periods of greatest population, the two investigators found. Control measures such as shooting and trapping, while locally effective, are too expensive to attempt over large areas. They therefore recommend that planting programs be held up during the cyclic upswings, and pushed vigorously during the times when the hare population is low. Then, by the time it again reaches a maximum, the trees will have grown tall enough to keep their heads out of harm's way.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1944

Books of the Week

➤ DEEPLY BURIED in ancient bogs are the records of the climates that prevailed during the years of their slow filling up. For the climates determined the nature of the forests in the vicinity, and the forests shed pollen on the mud and shallow water, year after year; so that now a properly trained botanist can accurately describe long-vanished forests by peering through his microscope. This branch of paleoecology looks easy but isn't: how to master its difficulties and avoid its pitfalls can be learned from AN INTRODUCTION TO POLLEN ANALYSIS (*Chronica Botanica*, \$5), by G. Erdtman, Swedish master of this tedious but rewarding technique.

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➤ DESPITE Scriptural admonition to the contrary, we are nowadays giving much thought to what we shall eat. And despite need for utmost intelligence in choosing from war-limited supplies, we let habit, and even prejudice, sway us overmuch in our purchases of food. Persuasions to better sense pop out (though with no obvious evangelism) from the pages of MAN'S FOOD, ITS RHYME OR REASON (*Macmillan*, \$2.50). The author, Mark Graubard, brings a double array of resources to bear on his task: he is both nutritionist and anthropologist.

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Just Off Press

ANTHROPOLOGICAL PAPERS — Bureau of American Ethnology—*Gov. Print. Off.*, 615 p., illus., \$1, paper, Bulletin 133.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL PAPERS—Bureau of American Ethnology—*Gov. Print. Off.*, 375 p., illus., 75c., paper, Bulletin 136.

CHROMOSOMES AND PHYLOGENY IN CREPIS: III. The Relationships of One Hundred and Thirteen Species—E. B. Babcock and J. A. Jenkins—*Univ. of Calif. Press*, 51 p., 75c., paper.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF HOLLAND TO THE SCIENCES—A Symposium Edited by A. J. Barnouw and B. Landheer—*Querido*, 373 p., illus., \$3.50.

THE ELECTRICAL CRAFTS—William H. Johnson and Louis V. Newkirk—*Macmillan*, 146 p., illus., \$2.50.

GRAPHICAL CONSTRUCTIONS FOR VACUUM TUBE CIRCUITS—Albert Preisman—*McGraw-Hill*, 237 p., illus., \$2.75.

THE HELICOPTERS ARE COMING—C. B. F. Macauley—*Whittlesey House*, 161 p., illus., \$2.

OUR AMERICAN BABIES: The Art of Baby Care—Dorothy V. Whipple—*Barrows*, 367 p., illus., \$2.50.

PHYSICS: Course 1, Mechanics, 352 p., illus. Workbook 124 p., \$1.50 paper; PHYSICS: Course 2, Heat, Sound, and Light, 345 p., illus. Workbook, 103 p., \$1.50, paper; PHYSICS: Course 3, Electricity, 314 p., illus. Workbook, 76 p., \$1.50, paper; *Henry Holt*. These companion books are adapted from Modern Physics by Charles E. Dull and are identical with the edition published for the U. S. Armed Forces Institute.

THE RADIO AMATEUR'S HANDBOOK—Staff of the American Radio Relay League—*American Radio Relay League, Inc.*, 480 p., illus., \$1, 21st ed., paper.

SPHEROGRAPHICAL NAVIGATION — Dirk Brouwer, Frederic Keator and D. A. McMillen—*Macmillan*, 200 p., illus., \$5.

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