

you are interested in him and want to do what is best for him. Sometimes it is possible for individuals to get along with relatives with a minimum of friction provided they are not thrown into constant daily contact with them.

9. Avoid over-solicitousness. Don't make an invalid of the returning soldier. Work is the most healing medicine for sick spirits. Let him take part in the work of the home and the community. He wants to do this. Particularly does he want a part in war work. He is out of the Army but he is still in the fight. Make good use of his services.

*Science News Letter, April 22, 1944*

## ORNITHOLOGY

## Owls Hatch From Eggs Days and Weeks Apart

See Front Cover

► BARN OWLS lay their eggs at intervals so that eggs and young of wholly different sizes may be found in the same nest. George A. Smith, of Quarryville, Pa., who took the photograph on the cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, says there were six young owls in the nest pictured. The youngest one, at the foot of the owl to the right, was less than a day old. The wide-eyed fellow at the left was several weeks old.

Barn owls are always hungry, eating their own weight in food every night, and more if they can get it. Like hawks, owls tear their prey apart and swallow the pieces whole. The flesh is digested and the bones, fur, feathers and other indigestible parts are formed into compact pellets which are regurgitated.

The usefulness of these birds in the destruction of rodents is evident from inspections of the disgorged pellets. Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the U. S. National Museum examined 1,247 pellets of barn owls that lived in a tower of the Smithsonian Institution Building in Washington, D. C. In these he found the skulls and other bones of 1,987 field mice, 656 house mice, 210 rats, 92 sparrows and blackbirds, and 4 frogs.

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One *bad apple* in a box often hastens the spoilage of all because the decaying fruit gives off ethylene gas.

*Electronically cleaned* air in dwellings is a future possibility; high-voltage rectifiers create electrostatic attraction which takes all dust, dirt, ashes and pollen grains out of the air.

## GENERAL SCIENCE

## "Living Package" of Home And Surroundings Urged

► A "LIVING PACKAGE," a complete package for living with ample land and trees and a structure that gives maximum protection from the elements at minimum maintenance, was visualized as a post-war housing goal by Irving W. Clark, manager of better homes department of Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, speaking before the

American Ceramic Society in Pittsburgh.

"The full realization of this huge post-war housing program will require large volumes of permanent public works such as streets, water systems and playgrounds as well as commercial and public buildings," he said.

"Representatives of the industry should take an active part in the post-war planning of these community activities to assure such projects getting through the blueprint, specification and finance stages."

The immediate post-war housing pro-



now wear "Plastic Overcoats"

*Bausch & Lomb 7X, 50mm Binocular*



Denied the continued use of vulcanized rubber for binocular covering, the U. S. Navy sought a plastic material that would furnish the metal-clinging, water-tight, sure-grip properties required in sea-duty binocular body covers.

Because the cooperative effort of engineers representing Bausch & Lomb, the plastics manufacturer and the Navy solved the difficult details posed by this problem, the new all-weather Vinylite coat on today's binoculars is as good as and, in some important respects, better than the former rubber coats. This plastic does

not deteriorate in sunlight and clings more firmly to the metal body.

This superior covering material will be on the *better* Bausch & Lomb Binocular that will be available after Victory, one more reason why Bausch & Lomb Binoculars will still be known as "the world's best—by any test."

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