

Do You Know?

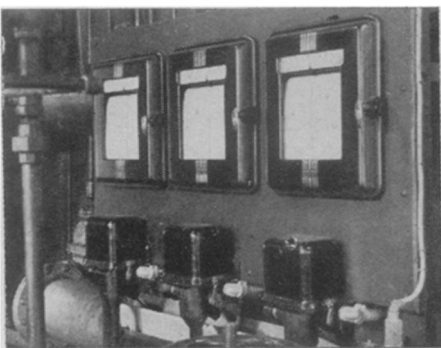
Pyroligneous acid is the crude acid obtained by the dry distillation of wood.

Tobacco pipes, probably 2,000 years old, have been found in Mexico.

Woodchucks, when old enough to leave their mothers, set themselves up in new or vacant burrows, and as a general rule live alone.

Fresh green and leafy *vegetables* are rich in vitamin A, and when gathered are nearly equivalent to oranges in vitamin C; they often lose 75% of the latter through standing, chopping, bruising and cooking.

The Chesapeake Bay retriever is one of the few breeds of *dogs* of American origin; it had its beginning about 140 years ago when hunters needed a powerful dog to retrieve wild waterfowl from the waters of the bay.



pH CONTROL SIMPLIFIED BY MICROMAX RECORDERS

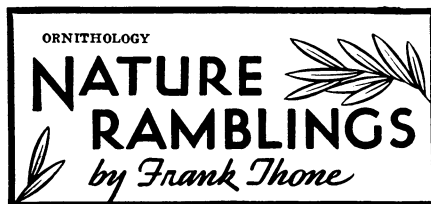
Efficiency of water-treatment in the Arkwright Corporation's Finishing Division, Fall River, Mass., has been considerably improved since the former method of checking manually has been superseded by the three glass-electrode Micromax pH Recorders shown above. Now filter plant operators automatically obtain complete, accurate pH information starting with raw water which varies from 5 to 9 pH, including water at the alum-treatment point, and ending with finished water at 7 pH.

The instruments used are Strip-Chart Signaling Recorders . . . fully automatic; alarm operating. They record in great detail, all variations between 2 and 12 pH.

For further information, see Catalog N-96(1).



Jrl. Ad N-96-701(2b)



Bound to the Land

► COLUMBUS, the school histories all tell us, knew he was nearing land when he sighted birds on the wing. What kind of birds they were the record does not state; they may have been flights of inland species on their autumnal migration, or they may have been gulls or cormorants or some other shore-haunting birds taking a jaunt out beyond their ordinary range. Whatever they were, the Admiral of the Ocean Sea had an experienced sailor's knowledge of what to look for, and what not to expect, when far out of sight of land, and he knew well enough that basically sea birds are really land birds.

It is only natural for sea birds to stick close to the land most of the time. Practically all of them are fish-eaters, and despite their watery way of life fish also are found in greatest abundance in in-shore waters. Moreover, many species of sea birds depend to a large extent on finding dead fish and other sea-food carrion cast up on shore, and naturally they must stay near the strand-line for that reason. Seagulls especially have a penchant for collecting garbage; their hope for scraps is what leads many of them to follow departing steamers, sometimes for many miles.

However, the farthest departures that sea birds make from the seashore are not on flights out over the open ocean but on expeditions inland. Seagulls are occasionally reported from all of our larger rivers, and they are as familiar a sight on the shores of the Great Lakes as they are on any salt-water coast.

Probably the most landlocked of all seagull rookeries is the one on a couple of rocky islets in Great Salt Lake. The

story of the timely rescue of the Mormon pioneers' first crop by flocks of these birds, just as they were being devoured by a plague of grasshoppers, is familiar to every child in the mountain country.

Even farther inland, and at a higher elevation, too, are the colonies of seagulls and pelicans on Yellowstone Lake, where they have taken over one or two small islands as nesting sites. Although most of these birds migrate to the Gulf of California when cold weather comes, a few of them regularly hang around all winter, picking up their living in places along the shore where hot springs keep the lake water warmed up enough to prevent the formation of ice.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1945

A small amount of *ascorbic acid* powder added to the syrup as peaches are packaged for freezing will prevent the browning of the frozen fruit.

Cheetahs, the hunting-leopards of southwestern Asia and northern Africa, are rated as the fastest of all quadrupeds and have been clocked at 70 miles per hour.

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