

Do You Know?

Hydrogen cyanide is used to control parlatoria scale on olive trees.

Powdered dried red *blood cells* have been dusted on wounds to hasten healing.

Citrus fruit production in the United States increased seven-fold in the past 30 years.

Over 2,000,000 tons of fine *alloy steel* were used in the United States during the war to build airplane engines and airframes.

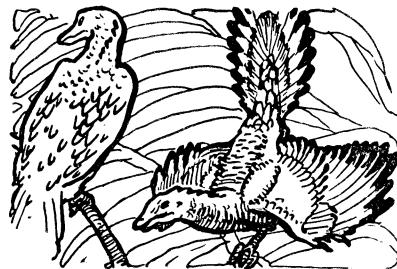
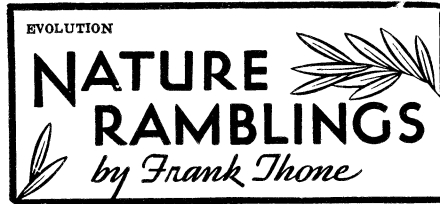
Dolomite found in northern Chile is said to be the only deposit in South America; it is of a good quality and is used to make hydraulic cement.

Scrap metal from partly completed military aircraft not needed by the Army because of the end of the war is being salvaged and sold; all usable equipment is first removed.

Shipbuilding consumed more steel during the war than any other single industry; of the more than 35,000,000 tons used in shipbuilding, approximately three-fifths went into merchant ships.

The lowly *coot*, or mudhen, might be called the "whitebill", it is suggested, to make this edible but unpopular fowl more acceptable on the dinner table; the coot is the third most plentiful waterfowl in America.

The name "*strawberry*" does not come from the common practice of using straw to mulch the plant, as many believe, but from the runners of the plant which at a certain season somewhat resemble scattered straws.



Clothed for Coolness

► FEATHERS on birds and fur on beasts were evolved not to keep their wearers warm in a world that was growing colder but to enable the original, half-reptilian ancestors of present-day warm-blooded animals to stay out in the sun a little later in the forenoon without dying of heat-stroke. This theory, directly opposite to the one set forth in most zoology books, is offered by Prof. Raymond B. Cowles of the University of California at Los Angeles. (*Science*, Jan. 18).

The idea that feather and fur were developed to meet a need felt by their wearers strikes Prof. Cowles as a little too pat. It follows the Lamarckian line of reasoning, which seemed valid when first proposed, well over a hundred years ago, but which has been pretty well abandoned. New mutations, most biologists now believe, "just happen"—and if one of them by chance helps its possessor in the struggle for existence, that's his good luck. But mutations aren't made to order.

A mutation that resulted in the development of fur or feathers would prevent the glare of a hot sun from reaching the animal's skin and thus enable the wearer to keep on hunting food after the heat of the day had begun, Prof. Cowles suggests. This would have an obvious survival value. Of course, such a heat-insulating layer would work both ways, and when the climate took a change for the cooler a new kind of survival value would attach to it.

There is reason to suppose, Prof. Cowles argues, that warm-bloodedness in animals is of comparatively late evolutionary origin. An examination of all the higher vertebrate groups shows that

the more recent, highly evolved members are also the warmest-blooded, while the more primitive types are nearer to the reptiles in the way their body temperatures react. Also, the young of some animals, especially nestling birds, are for a time less warm-blooded in their physiology than birds, and do not become completely warm-blooded until some time after hatching.

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When you try this selection of questions from the examination you should, therefore, not expect to find that you have checked all the right answers.

To save your time, only typical questions out of the original three-hour examination are reproduced on this page. You should be able to answer the 30 questions in about 40 minutes.

Don't read further. Cover up the following paragraph until you have taken the test.

The correct answers to part A are: 1; 2; 4; 3; 4; 4; 2; 5; 2; 9; 2; 10; 3; 11; 4; 12; 3; 13; 1; 36; 2; 37; 2; 38; 1; 39; 2; 41; 3; 42; 3; 43; 1. The right answers to part B include: 51; 52; 2; 53; 4; 54; 1; 55; 2; 56; 2; 57; 2; 58; 3; 59; 4. In Part C, the correct answer to the first three questions can be any one of the following, or anything similar to it: 101, none, no conclusion is possible, increased output due to chance, no conclusion without data from control group; 102, barometric pressure; 103, V velocity, same velocity. The items in column I of question 104 should have the following numbers beside them in this order: 3, 2, 1, 5, 11, 10, 4, 8, 9, 6, 7.

If you answered correctly 22 of the questions, you did about as well as the average high school student completing the examination. Those of you who got only ten correct did no worse than some of the contestants with lowest scores. Anyone giving the proper answer to 27 of the questions probably is gifted in science. But remember, the questions given here are the easier ones included in the examination.

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Celery tops can be dehydrated and used as human food or feed for cattle.

Jack *pinus* produce cones at an early age; as the trees grow older, woody tissues engulf the old cones along the main trunk and eventually completely entomb them in the trunk wood.

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