

Do You Know?

Guests in one St. Paul hotel, at least, may sleep under electrically heated blankets if they wish.

Ethyl alcohol has been successfully made from the milk sugar in whey, a by-product of cheese manufacturing.

A big game hunter states that when you are attempting to kill a beast, you must expect that it will in turn try to kill you.

Scientists conducting research on the nuclear energy that powers atomic bombs are attending summer school at the Oak Ridge, Tenn., plant.

Muskellunge, a large American freshwater pike, often reaches five feet in length and a weight of 60 pounds; it eats other fish, young ducks, muskrats, frogs, snakes and other animals.

A South American buyer recently gave an order in the United States for a large number of flatirons to a manufacturer who puts red handles on them instead of the customary black.

Unlike poisonous snakes, Gila monsters and the beaded lizard of Mexico have their fangs in their lower jaws; these are the only two of nearly 3,000 known saurians in the world that are venomous.

In nature many non-carnivorous animals fraternize; in the old days in America, deer, elk, antelope and bison often migrated together and, in East Africa today, antelopes and zebras associate in great herds.

YOUR HAIR AND ITS CARE

By O.L. Levin, M.D. and H.T. Behrman, M.D.

Two medical specialists tell you what to do to save and beautify your hair, stimulate healthier hair growth, and deal with many problems, as:

Dandruff — gray hair — thinning hair — care of the scalp — baldness—abnormal types of hair—excessive oiliness—brittle dryness—hair falling out—infection —parasites—hair hygiene, etc., etc.

"A worthwhile book full of important information."
—Ohio State Medical Journal.

Price \$2.00, incl. postage, 5-day-Money-Back Guarantee
EMERSON BOOKS, Inc., Dept. 826-C, 251 W. 19th Street, New York 11

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Heavy Pheasant Losses

"Horse disease" caused many deaths among artificially reared pheasants. Vaccination has had only partial success as counter-measure.

► EQUINE encephalomyelitis, a serious disease of the nervous system so named because it was first observed in horses, caused disastrous losses among artificially reared pheasants in three outbreaks in New Jersey, Drs. F. R. Beaudette and J. J. Black of New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station stated at the meeting in Cincinnati of the American Veterinary Medical Association. One of the outbreaks killed 3,757 birds out of a population of 5,094.

Vaccination has been attempted as a counter-measure, but apparently has had only partial success. Carrier of the disease has not yet been identified, but it is suspected to be something other than an insect.

Baby pigs have been dying at an alarming rate of a mysterious disease, in many parts of the Midwest. Dr. George A. Young, Jr., of Austin, Minn., offered a hypothesis that appears to convict sows as unwitting killers of their own offspring, with the milk of their first nursing as the weapon.

The course of events, as sketched by Dr. Young, includes, first, an infection of the brood-sow, then transmission

of a sensitizing substance resulting from this infection through the circulation to the unborn pigs, and finally the concentration of an antibody to this substance in the milk glands. When the sensitized baby pigs first suckle their mother and receive her colostrum or first milk they get along with it this antibody, which produces an allergy-like reaction known as anaphylactic shock. In a large proportion of cases the outcome is fatal.

Dr. M. S. Shahan of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who is in command of the American scientific forces fighting foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico, reported to the meeting on progress in the campaign. Because the necessary measures for eradication cause serious dislocations in the lives of the people, it involves much more than a straight-out onslaught of scientists against a pest. Social, economic, legal, educational, even religious factors have to be taken into account, the speaker said. He praised the Mexicans, both officials and the people at large, for their cooperation.

Science News Letter, August 30, 1947

MEDICINE

Deaths From Clots Cut

► DEATHS from pulmonary embolism, or clot in the main artery from the heart to the lungs, have been cut almost in half by an operation on veins in the legs, a Massachusetts General Hospital team of physicians and surgeons reports in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Aug. 23).

The doctors are Jacques Carlotti, French Government research fellow in medicine, Irad B. Hardy, Jr., Robert R. Linton and Paul D. White.

The operation consists in interrupting the femoral veins in the thighs. The object is to keep the clots, which usually originate in the calves, from travelling up the leg veins to the heart and pulmonary artery where they so often become fatal.

The operation was performed in only

one patient in the period from 1936 to 1940. But it was done in 60 patients during the next five years. The mortality dropped from 50.7% in those without operation to 28.3% in those operated on.

Pulmonary embolism has generally been considered a frequent complication and cause of death after operations, broken bones and childbirth. Actually it is more frequent among medical patients, the Boston doctors found. More than half of all the patients with this condition in 10 years at the Massachusetts General Hospital were medical patients.

Most of the patients had heart disease. The great majority were over 40 years of age and men predominated.

Pain in the chest was the commonest