

vada, it has moved clear over the state in the past nine years, until it now threatens to cross the border into Oregon and California.

Because it has thus far been confined entirely to semi-arid rangelands, attack on this species has not been considered eco-

nomically justified. Now it may be necessary to get after it with poison, to prevent serious consequences next year. Fortunately, this species has proven quite susceptible to modern poisons, in experimental baitings.

Science News Letter, July 16, 1949

ENGINEERING

Homes at Noiseless Sites

► THE home builder of the future may be able to select his site by referring to a city map showing the location of the principal sources of noise. In order to secure his building permit he may have to show that he has picked a relatively noise-free location or that his designs provide for acoustical treatment that would insure that acoustic comfort is combined with the other comforts of home.

This is the prediction of Dr. Leo L. Beranek, vice-president of the Acoustical Society of America and technical director of the Acoustics Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

There is no good reason, he says in a report to *PHYSICS TODAY* (July 1), why our city administrators should not be as concerned with acoustic health as they are with plumbing, lighting and heating problems. We must persuade city officials to prepare city codes and city regulations that govern the location of factories, highways, airstrips and other sources of noise.

At present, he points out, lax building codes have permitted speculative builders to construct apartments and row houses with acoustically transparent walls and resonant floors. If the husband in the family upstairs spills his change when taking off his trousers, the people below feel as though they can count it as it rolls to a stop.

Noise from highways and airplanes has blighted many housing areas which would otherwise be assets to cities. Dr. Beranek reported seeing on the highway between

Worcester and Boston a stretch where house after house is marked for sale—because of noise. One owner said, "Sometimes I awaken during the night with the terrified feeling that a big truck is driving through our bedroom."

Long range planning is needed, Dr. Beranek feels, in the fields of building design, city planning, noise evaluation and noise reduction, and as a basis for such planning, research is necessary.

He urges a central building research station, perhaps financed by the combined building industries, for an initial ten-year period. Out of this station would come ideas for the future that would combine the five essentials of building: Structure, design, lighting, heating and acoustics. England already has such a building research station, and the English have constructed over 100,000 housing units in accordance with a building code requiring types of floor and wall structure developed at this station. This calls for a two-inch floating concrete floor on a half-inch soft glass-fiber blanket over a four-and-a-half-inch concrete slab. Party walls are of two-and-a-half-inch cinder blocks plastered and separated by two-inch air space. Such construction cuts down on noise so that fewer than one tenant out of four complained of being disturbed.

In Holland, there is an experimental apartment house about a block long with 48 apartments. In this building, tests are being made of 38 floor constructions, 32

partition wall constructions and 45 outer wall constructions.

Science News Letter, July 16, 1949

● RADIO

Saturday, July 23, 3.15 p.m., EDST
"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Pierre Auger, French physicist and head of the Natural Sciences Department of UNESCO, and other scientists will discuss "Report from UNESCO."

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. 56 JULY 16, 1949 No. 3

49,200 copies of this issue printed

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., North 2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscription rates: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage.

Change of address: Three weeks notice is required. When ordering a change, please state exactly how magazine is now addressed. Your new address should include postal zone number if you have one.

Copyright, 1949, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service. Science Service also publishes CHEMISTRY (monthly) and THINGS of Science (monthly).

Printed in U. S. A. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Washington, D. C. under the act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to periodical literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N.Y.C., Pennsylvania 6-5566 and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago. STAtE 4439.

SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Edwin G. Conklin, Princeton University; Karl Lark-Horowitz, Purdue University; Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard University. Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences: Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology; L. A. Maynard, Cornell University. Nominated by the National Research Council: Ross G. Harrison, Yale University; Alexander Wetmore, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Rene J. Dubos, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Nominated by the Journalistic Profession: A. H. Kirchofer, Buffalo Evening News; Neil H. Swanson, Baltimore Sun Papers; O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism. Nominated by the E. W. Scripps Estate: H. L. Smithton, E. W. Scripps Trust; Frank R. Ford, Evansville Press; Charles E. Scripps, Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Officers—President: Harlow Shapley, Vice President and chairman of Executive Committee: Alexander Wetmore, Treasurer: O. W. Riegel, Secretary: Watson Davis.

Staff—Director: Watson Davis. Writers: Frank Thone, Jane Stafford, A. C. Monahan, Marjorie Van de Water, Ron Ross, Lydia Schweiger, Ann Ewing. Science Clubs of America: Joseph H. Kraus, Margaret E. Patterson. Photography: Fremont Davis. Sales and Advertising: Hallie Jenkins. Production: Priscilla Howe. In London: J. G. Feinberg.

Question Box

MEDICINE

How does the blood signal death after X-ray exposure? p. 34.

How have rimless glasses been incriminated as a cancer-cause? p. 35.

What harm can mercury compounds used as antiseptics cause? p. 44.

What is the warning sign of an impending heat stroke? p. 34.

Photographs: Cover, George A. Smith; p. 35, Westinghouse Research Laboratories; p. 37, General Electric Company; p. 39, p. 42, p. 43, Fremont Davis.

MEDICINE-ENTOMOLOGY

How has one locality successfully checked sleeping sickness? p. 38.

PHYSIOLOGY

How much heat can you stand? p. 44.

PSYCHOLOGY

How are officers being taught to read faster? p. 39.

How can a machine test logic? p. 46.