



Seal

➤ CONSIDER the happy life of the papa seal in the spring. When the seals swim north in the Pacific Ocean to their rookeries in the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea, the males fight it out for possession of all the females they can lay their flippers on.

The bigger and stronger ones build up their harems, and the young "bachelors" are forced off to live by themselves. That hurts, because seals are among the most highly polygamous animals in existence.

It hurts even more when the fur hunters begin taking their harvest. These surplus males can be killed without fear of interfering materially in the normal life of the herd. About 3,000,000 fur seals gather in the Pribilofs yearly to breed. The herds have been protected and managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service since they nearly became extinct in the early years of the century. In 1910 their numbers reached a low of 132,000.

When the young seal pups are born, the job of teaching them to swim is left to the mother. Pop would be swamped if he had to instruct all his offspring. Yet the pups have to be taught, in much the same way that young birds are pushed out of the nest to fly, before the family can go south again for the winter.

Even though the seal pup is destined to spend the greater part of his life in the sea, he is not a born swimmer. As a matter of fact, at first he hates the water and has to be coaxed into it.

The mother seal's method of teaching her youngsters is very much like that followed by human parents with recalcitrant offspring. She persuades the pup to climb onto her back, and swims out into the water with it. She gives the youngster time to become accustomed to the strange watery surroundings.

Then she slips out from under, leaving the pup to flounder back to land. The young seal never fails to make the shore, and in the end always becomes an expert swimmer.

Once in a great while, in wintertime storms at sea, the pup's new skill is not enough. That happened this year off the coast of Oregon and Washington. Hundreds of fur seal pups fought desperately and then died in churning seas that accompanied violent 90-mile-an-hour January gales. They were washed up on the shoreline, where Wildlife Service biologists found among the dead a few of the 20,000 pups which were tagged last summer in the Pribilofs.

They know that thousands more survived the storms. They are on their way back now to the Bering Sea. The old males have court- ing to do.

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CATARACT SUFFERERS

New light magnifiers now available help people with cataract conditions to read and write more easily and comfortably at night. Two models: 1. LEK-TRO-LENS light magnifier clips on 25 to 100 watt bulbs in lamps, light fixtures, focuses twice the light. Swings to any position. Postpaid. 2 for \$1.00 plus 6¢ stamps. 2. DAY-BRITE magnifier is like LEK-TRO-LENS but has filter, gives WHITE LIGHT similar to daylight. 79¢ each —2 for \$1.58. Postpaid.



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MEDICINE

Penicillin Treatment Prevents Rheumatic Fever

➤ ACUTE rheumatic fever, which attacks some quarter of a million persons in the United States annually, can be prevented by penicillin treatment of streptococcal disease or, in lay terms, strep. sore throat.

An Armed Forces study showing this is reported by a team of three Army and two civilian physicians in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (May 13).

The study was made at Fort Francis E. Warren in southeastern Wyoming. This is an Air Force technical training base. All patients admitted to the hospital there with colds, sore throats or any disease of the respiratory tract during a six-month period were seen, within a few hours after hospital admission, by one of the professional staff of the laboratory. Those having exudate, or so-called spots, on tonsils or throat were included in the study.

Of 798 who were then given penicillin, only two developed rheumatic fever, follow-up study three to four weeks later showed. In contrast, in a group of 804 patients with similar strep. sore throats who did not get penicillin, 17 developed acute rheumatic fever. This difference could be due to chance only six times in 10,000. The study was conducted by Capt. Floyd W. Denny, Capt. Lewis W. Wannamaker, Capt. William R. Brink of the Army and Dr. Charles H. Rammekamp, Jr., of Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, and Dr. Edward A. Custer of Palo Alto, Calif.

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AGRICULTURE

One Type of Grass May Remain Green All Year

➤ TAKE heart, you amateur gardeners, a type of turf grass that stays green the year around is on the way. It is being tested in several parts of the United States right now.

It is a type of Bermuda grass known as "U-3." "This new strain is a tame version of the well-known 'devil grass,'" explained Dr. Charles K. Hallowell, on leave from Pennsylvania State College and now at the University of California at Los Angeles. "It stays green most of the year in many regions and in those where there is little or no frost gives promise of doing so the year around."

At the present time, it is possible to maintain a green lawn the year around by combining several types of grasses. But this is costly—both the initial investment and the upkeep.

Dr. Hallowell is working in the experimental turf culture program at U.C.L.A., the aim of which is to improve lawns, not only around the home, but in parks, golf courses, cemeteries and other public places.

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