



Lady-Beetle

*"Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home.
Your house is on fire, your children will
burn."*

➤ THIS CHANT has been a favorite of children for no one knows how long. For these bright little beetles, more ready than most of their kin to use their wings, are

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very attractive to the youngsters.

It is easily understandable that an early and naive natural history should have called these apparently harmless, gentle insects "ladybirds." But more recent and careful investigations have shown that by rights they should be known as "leopard beetles," for they are among the most voracious little hunters in the insect kingdom.

There are many species of ladybirds, but in general they all resemble a tiny round pill cut in half. Their short legs are attached to the flat side of their body, and they run as fast as these short legs can carry them, first in one direction, then in another.

The ladybird comes in a variety of colors. Sometimes she is black with red or yellow spots, sometimes red or yellow with black spots, but always her coat is shining. Fast as her legs will carry her, the ladybird is still slow-moving, like most of the round

beetles. The lady's prey, however, is slower still, for it consists mainly of aphids, scale insects and similar plant parasites.

This predacious habit on the part of the ladybirds naturally makes them valuable friends of man, for our gardens and orchards suffer heavily from the inroads of these pests. The fruit-raising industry particularly pays millions in involuntary tolls to various types of scale insects. In some regions, notably California, the capture of wild ladybirds and turning them loose in the groves has become a very important horticultural practice.

The ladybirds commonly winter in the debris on the forest floor in the woodlands of the higher hills, and to these places the gatherers go, shaking and sifting them out of their winter nests. The beetles are as a rule too sleepy to mind, and they are carefully kept at the proper temperature in cold storage until spring.

Science News Letter, June 9, 1951

GENERAL SCIENCE

"Elite" Charges Are Wrong

➤ CHARGES that the college deferment plan—which swung into action May 26 when 175,000 students were tested for draft deferment—is unfair to the not-so-smart and might set up an intellectual elite are wrong. This is the statement of Dr. M. H. Trytten, the man most responsible for the draft deferment tests.

In an interview with Science Service, he was answering the position of some prominent educators and of the Committee on the Present Danger, led by Harvard President James B. Conant and Dr. Vannevar Bush. Latest statement on behalf of the committee was made by Dr. William C. Menninger, prominent psychiatrist, who declared that the present Selective Service System placed the burden of fighting on the "dumb boys".

Dr. Trytten, director of the Office of Scientific Manpower of the National Research Council, is general chairman of the six scientific and educational committees which formulated the plan whereby up to 500,000 college students will be deferred. General Hershey accepted the plan on the recommendation of those six committees.

Dr. Trytten told Science Service: "This cry of equality is pure emotionalism. Every one of the 14,000,000 veterans of World War II knows that equality of sacrifice is a myth. Millions who were drafted never went overseas, millions who went overseas never heard a shot fired in anger.

"Under Universal Military Service there would be, relatively, few infantrymen in the front lines, relatively few pilots engaged in combat. The rest brought in to the Armed Forces would be engaged in the thousands of jobs at varying distances from the front for which the Armed Forces have classifications. Most of these jobs are necessary.

"As a matter of fact, if the civilians do not provide for the college education of that percentage of our young men who can absorb it and use it for the benefit of our country's defense, the Armed Forces will have to do the job. This will mean that the taxpayers will pay for the college education of thousands of young men brought into the service. In addition they will pay for their food, their uniforms and their salaries while being educated. The Armed Forces recognize the need for college-trained men in the service. That is why they support the Hershey plan for college deferments."

Dr. Trytten pointed to what he called another, more basic fact which makes the present plan necessary. This is, he said, the manpower difference between the western allies and Russia and its satellites.

"To defeat Russia, if that becomes necessary in a general war," he declared, "we must place superior weapons in the hands of our soldiers. We cannot do this unless we have the scientists, technicians and en-

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gineers to think them up, design them and then get them produced. We will not have those scientists, technicians and engineers unless we send to college those most qualified to go."

Getting back to the thousands of job classifications for which the Armed Forces must find the men, Dr. Trytten pointed out that many of them call for a technical or a college education.

"These men who gain the right to go to college as a result of their standing in the tests or in their classes," he said, "do not thereby necessarily escape military service. They are available to the Armed Forces

after they have completed their education. And the Armed Forces will be much happier with an educated man than with one whose education they have to complete.

"There can be no such thing as Universal Military Service," Dr. Trytten said. "By the very nature of the problem this country has to solve to defend itself, each citizen will have to do the job for which he is most capable. This means that, for some, their duty—not their privilege—will be to work in a laboratory, for others to work on an assembly line, and for others to use the superior weapons and techniques their brothers perfect."

Science News Letter, June 9, 1951

Books of the Week

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AIRCRAFT JET POWERPLANTS—Franklin P. Durham—*Prentice-Hall*, 326 p., illus., \$6.65. A college textbook for students with some knowledge of thermodynamics and fluid mechanics. There is special emphasis on the gas turbine.

ALCOHOLISM AND SOCIAL STABILITY—Robert Straus and Selden D. Bacon—*Hillhouse Press*, Reprint, 30 p., paper, 50 cents. Reprinted from *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol*. A study of occupational integration in 2,023 male clinic patients.

THE CHEYENNE IN PLAINS INDIAN TRADE RELATIONS 1795-1840—Joseph Jablow—*Augustin*, 100 p., illus., \$2.50. This is Monograph XIX of the American Ethnological Society. Discusses tribal interrelationships as affected by a trading economy.

COLOR IS HOW YOU LIGHT IT—*Sylvania Electric Products, Inc.* 2d ed. 24 p., illus., paper, 50 cents. A simplified lighting guide for commercial and home decoration which analyzes how colors look under different lights.

DATE CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES—Roy W. Nixon—*Govt. Printing Office*, Revised ed. 57 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. Survey of the problems and methods of date growing in the United States.

DISEASES IN OLD AGE—Robert T. Monroe—*Harvard Univ. Press*, 407 p., \$5.00. No. 11 in the Harvard Univ. series of monographs in Medicine & Public Health. A clinical and

pathological study of 7941 individuals over 61 years of age.

THE EARLY ARABIAN NECROPOLIS OF AIN JAWAN, A PRE-ISLAMIC AND EARLY ISLAMIC SITE ON THE PERSIAN GULF—Richard LeBaron Bowen, Jr.—*American Schools of Oriental Research*, 70 p., illus., paper—\$1.75, board—\$2.00. Constitutes Bulletin Supplementary Studies Nos. 7-9. Reports archaeological findings.

FUTURE TEACHERS OF AMERICA (ELEVENTH YEARBOOK—1951)—*National Education Association of the United States*—292 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. The major portion is devoted to a listing by states of all chapters and clubs connected with the National Education Association.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GRAIN DISTILLING INDUSTRY TO OUR NATIONAL FEED AND FOOD ECONOMY—*Distillers Feed Research Council, Inc.*, 32 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 1232 Enquirer Bldg., Cincinnati 2, Ohio. Graphic illustrations of the role of the grain distilling industry in our economy.

THE KANGAROO RATS (DIPDOMYS) OF BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO—Laurence M. Huey—*San Diego Society of Natural History*, 51 p., illus., paper, 70 cents. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. XI, No. 10., pp. 205-256. Study made from representative collections of kangaroo rats.

MOBILIZATION GUIDE FOR SMALL BUSINESS—Defense Production Administration—*Govt. Printing Office*, 31 p., paper, 10 cents, Rm. 6225, Main Commerce Bldg., Dept. of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. Designed to help small businessmen locate government services and share in defense orders and in obtaining consumer materials.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR RAYON FABRICS—Jules Labarthe, Jr.—*Mellon Institute*, Reprint, 3 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Reprinted from May 1951 issue of *Stores*.

PETROLEUM FACTS AND FIGURES—*American Petroleum Institute*, 9th ed., 491 p., illus., paper, \$2.50. A compendium of statistics on sales, prices, exports, production, etc.

A PILOT-PLANT STUDY OF THE NEUTRALIZATION OF ACID DRAINAGE FROM BITUMINOUS COAL MINES—S. A. Braley, Sr.—*Mellon Institute*,

14 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Of interest to those concerned with the problem of controlling stream contamination by coal-mine drainage.

THE SHOVEL-NOSED SNAKE, CHIONACTIS WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SUBSPECIES—Laurence M. Klauber—*San Diego Society of Natural History*, 63 p., illus., paper, 85 cents. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. XI, No. 9, pp. 141-204. A study of the desert snake, *Chionactis*.

SYNTHESIS OF ELECTRONIC COMPUTING AND CONTROL CIRCUITS—Computation Laboratory Staff—*Harvard Univ. Press*, 278 p., illus., \$8.00. This is Vol. 27 of The Annals of the Computation Laboratory of Harvard University. The design of digital computing machinery receives special emphasis. For the engineer, physicist, mathematician and logician.

THERMODYNAMICS OF FLUID FLOW—Newman A. Hall—*Prentice-Hall*, 278 p., illus., \$7.35. This is a textbook for students who have some background in the fundamentals of fluid mechanics and thermodynamics. Major emphasis is on theory.

THE VOGDES COLLECTION OF TRILOBITES—B. F. Howell—*San Diego Society of Natural History*, 71 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. XI, No. 11, pp. 257-328. An annotated list of General Vogdes' collection of fossils.

Science News Letter, June 9, 1951

A new *cattle-vaccine* laboratory in Brazil will specialize in vaccines for hoof-and-mouth disease.

When the mule *deer* senses danger it raises its head and swings its huge ears around like a scanning radar antenna.

Nature's best *reservoirs* to store winter water for summer use are the deep snow banks that form in high mountain country and melt slowly as hot weather approaches.

Early in the 19th century, sea captains visiting the Pacific Galapagos islands, took on board a hundred or more of the giant *tortoises* found there, kept them for months without food or water, and used them for food.

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