

ECOLOGY

Some Floods Help Fishermen

➤ RIVER FISHERMEN can thank floods for the banks that allow them to cast their lines.

High water keeps parts of the Potomac River's banks free of brush, Dr. Robert S. Sigafoos, U. S. Geological Survey botanist, reported to the Ecological Society of America meeting in Storrs, Conn. He outlined some of the effects of high water and floods on vegetation near the nation's capital.

Plants react differently to different types of floods, Dr. Sigafoos said. High stream velocity during floods that occur once every three years allows only oaks to grow on exposed knolls. Ice jams destroy all trees except the biggest ones. The final result is a zonation that enables skilled observers to read part of the river's recent history in the vegetation along its banks.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1956

PSYCHOLOGY

Law School Students Become Less Cynical

➤ LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS become less cynical as they go through their course, Dr. Leonard D. Eron of Rip Van Winkle Foundation, Hudson, N. Y., and Dr. Robert S. Redmount of Yale University reported to the American Psychological Association meeting in Chicago.

This is the reverse of what happens to medical students. Last year Dr. Eron reported that senior medical students are more cynical than freshmen and he traced this change in attitude to the effect of their studies.

Why should law study make students less cynical while medical study makes them more so?

The psychologists attribute it to the traumatic effects the medical students encounter in the course of their studies.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1956

Do You Know?

Use of commercial fertilizers by the world's farmers has more than doubled since before World War II.

The weaving of the nest bag of a giant *oriole* is laborious and is done exclusively by the females who work a 12-hour day.

Undetected *fires* are particularly common and disastrous to churches with their many concealed spaces and long periods of vacancy.

The female *bagworm* spends her entire life in a cocoonlike silken bag, sometimes seven inches long, into whose texture she interweaves bits of leaves.