

ICHTHYOLOGY

## Experts Studying Puzzle Of Shrinking Salmon

➤ **KOKANEE**, land-locked blueback or sockeye salmon, in Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho, continued to shrink in 1957.

Charles Whitt of Farragut, fish biologist for the Idaho game department, says creel and other checks indicate the 1957 kokanees are slightly shorter than those of the previous year.

Average length of the land-locked salmon now is about ten inches, or a fraction of an inch under the length of the 1956 kokanee

The mystery of the shrinking kokanee has been a matter of concern to fish and game department officials, sportsmen, commercial fishermen and others for several years.

Creel checks show the average kokanee was more than 12 inches long in 1951. The average has dropped fractionally each year since.

Why has the kokanee been shrinking?

Mr. Whitt said a lot of theories have been advanced but no one knows for sure why the fish are smaller each year. Many fishermen are convinced there are too many kokanee in the lake.

"We may find that several factors are responsible," he said. "It is conceivable that the lake may be over-populated with the fish. There may be less food for the kokanee in the lake each year. And the kokanee may be faced with stiffer competition each year from other game fish."

Science News Letter, August 2, 1958

MEDICINE

## Blame Prevalent Disease On Poor Living Conditions

➤ **POOR SANITATION** and standards of living may breed an infection that hits approximately 25% of the women of the United States yearly.

The infection is caused by the protozoan parasite known as *Trichomonas vaginalis*. It is responsible for vaginal discharges and inflammation. However, the infection is relatively easy to cure, Dr. C. Lee Buxton, chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the Yale School of Medicine, said.

An investigation involving some 2,000 women in all walks of life was conducted last year to determine what environmental factors were related to the infection, Dr. Buxton and co-workers from his department, Drs. David Weinman and Carl Johnson, reported. Poor living conditions were a factor in a large percentage of cases.

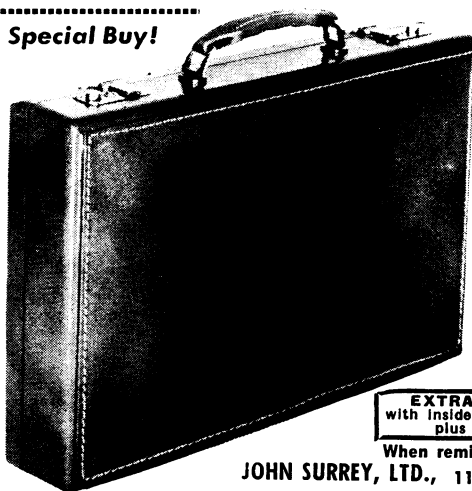
At least two factors should be considered in the transmission of the infection, Dr. Buxton told scientists at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists meeting in Los Angeles.

The first factor is the transmission by sexual contact; the second is the prevalence of the infection as the result of social and economic conditions and personal hygiene and cleanliness.

Plans are now underway to investigate transmission methods of the disease in hopes of finding ways and means of eradicating it.

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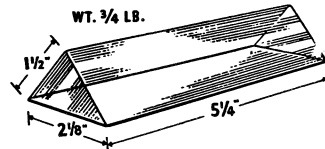
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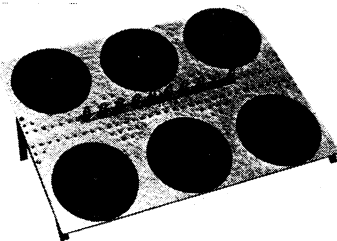


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