

Since Halley's comet came very close to Castor and Pollux, it must also at one time have been directly over Bethlehem—"where the young child was."

Although Dr. Richardson admits that there are certain objections to this idea, he concludes that perhaps "it is better that some of the questions remain unanswered. The story has endured for 2,000 years because of its beauty and simplicity."

• Science News Letter, 80:386 December 9, 1961

ENTOMOLOGY

Insect Preservation Allows More Field Work

► A NEW METHOD of insect preservation using chlorocresol crystals eliminates the need of pinning and mounting specimens in the field.

Lloyd M. Martin, associate curator of entomology at the Los Angeles County Museum who recently completed a two weeks' expedition collecting moths and other insects in Palo Duro Canyon, Texas, applied this technique, introduced from Australia, for the first time in the United States.

In the bottom of a plastic box a teaspoonful of chlorocresol crystals is placed and the moths as collected are placed in layers over the crystals, each layer being separated by tissue paper. When the box is filled, the top is sealed on with masking tape.

According to Mr. Martin, the specimens stay moist and relaxed until ready for processing in the laboratory, thus allowing more time that is needed for the actual collecting.

From six collection stations set up in this canyon, which is a 1,200-foot deep gash in the elevated flat Llano Estacado of West Texas forming an isolated insect trap, Mr. Martin was able to capture as many as 1,370 specimens in a single night.

The thousands of insects he collected were all packed in the crystals which had been imported from England.

• Science News Letter, 80:387 December 9, 1961

NATURAL RESOURCES

Suburban Growth Makes More Water Problems

► THE SPRAWLING GROWTH of suburbia into the surrounding countryside is creating water problems.

Areas of fields and forest are rapidly being covered by streets, parking lots and buildings, cutting off rainfall from the moisture-absorbing soils. The "roofing-over" of the land causes increased flooding of low-lying areas and accelerated erosion, U.S. Geological Survey scientists, John Savini and J. C. Kammerer, reported.

Fifty-six percent of the nation's population lives in 168 metropolitan areas covering only seven percent of the land area. The crowding together also increases stream pollution and reduces the amount of drinking water available.

"These urban effects upon water deserve increasing study to provide the best use of water and land resources for the nation's urban centers," the scientists concluded.

• Science News Letter, 80:387 December 9, 1961



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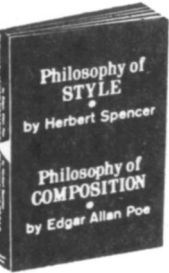
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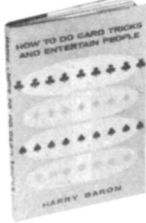
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