

GENERAL SCIENCE

# • Notebook of Science

## Punishment Teaches Chicks

PUNISHMENT in the form of confinement for just one minute in a narrow passage helped four little five-week-old Rhode Island Red chicks to learn to distinguish between contrary directions in the revolution of two striped drums. The little chickens were rewarded by food when they went in the direction of the drum revolving from left to right; they were punished when they chose the drum turning from right to left. They learned in from 20 to 60 days.

The experiment was conducted at Harvard University Psychological Laboratory by Prof. William H. Stavsky of Harvard and Frank A. Pattie, Jr., of the Rice Institute.

## Hibernating Mosquitoes

IN THE higher reaches of the Rocky Mountains in the northern portion of Montana lives a species of mosquito that hibernates during the winter as adults, under logs and in sheltered spots, and may be seen flying on the

first warm day of spring. These mosquitoes are large, with spotted wings, and often are referred to as snow mosquitoes.

According to Drs. N. Kadletz and L. Kusmina, Russian scientists, these mosquitoes store up fat in the summer, as do bears, and subsist on it while dozing through the winter.

## Paralysis Decreases

A DECIDED decrease in the number of cases of infantile paralysis throughout the country is seen in the reports of state health officers to the U. S. Public Health Service here.

For the week ending Oct. 25, a total of 397 cases were reported. This is a decrease of 171 cases compared with the week before, and is the lowest figure reported in the last six weeks. The high point of the present outbreak occurred during the week ending Oct. 4 when 647 cases were reported.

While the infantile paralysis outbreak is declining, reports show an increase in diphtheria. A total of 1,664

cases were reported for the week of Oct. 25. A general increase in this disease usually occurs at this season.

Health officers generally advise parents to have their young children tested for susceptibility to diphtheria, and if found susceptible, to have them protected by treatment with toxin-antitoxin.

## Parrot Ban Lifted

THE BAN on the importation of parrots into the United States, which became effective last January during the psittacosis outbreak, has just been lifted, the U. S. Public Health Service has announced. Parrots may now be brought into the country through ports where federal quarantine officers are stationed, subject to certain regulations of shipping, detention and inspection.

## Enjoy High Temperature

TEMPERATURES that ordinary animals and plants could not endure for more than short periods are built up and apparently enjoyed by the fungi that breed in piles of rotting straw. Experiments at the Rothamstead Experimental Station near London show that these organisms of decay thrive best at a temperature of about 130 degrees Fahrenheit, which is more than halfway from freezing to boiling point. These fungi, it has been found, do more than the bacteria often found associated with them toward the reduction of straw to a soil-enriching fertilizer resembling farmyard manure.

## Quinine Anniversary

PHARMACOLOGISTS, physicians and botanists gathered at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, last week for the celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the first use of cinchona bark, from which we get quinine, for the treatment of malaria. This anniversary coincides with the fiftieth of the discovery by Alphonse Laveran of the parasites causing the disease.

## Neuritis and Auto Drivers

NEURITIS of the neck and shoulder has become a common complaint of automobile drivers in France, a report to the American Medical Association states. It attacks almost exclusively persons who drive closed cars and leave the window next to them open so they may put their hands out to give signals. Drivers of left-drive cars are affected on the left side, drivers of right-drive cars on the right side. Persons who drive open cars are not affected.

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