



Remember the Birds

WHEN YOU are preparing for your Christmas feast, remember also the birds. If there is enough snow to make you rejoice in an "old-fashioned Christmas," it will mean a harder Christmas for the birds, a great deal of whose living in winter depends on access to the ground. Therefore spare them the crumbs that fall from your table, which is really all that is required by these brothers of the adoption of St. Francis.

It is better not to scatter your alms for the birds on the ground. If there is snow, that makes the food less wholesome, and much of it is lost. And in any case, it exposes the little feasters to the onfall of cats, who know nothing of peace on earth at any season, nor aught of goodwill toward their fellow-creatures. Rig a flat box, preferably with a shelter from wind and snow, on top of a post. Or better even than that, hang it in the middle of a stretched wire, where it will be safe from pilfering squirrels as well as from murdering cats. And forget not a lump of suet, securely nailed or tied. Birds rejoice in suet as Christmas feasters do in a roast goose or a plum pudding.

We are promised a high reward if we remember the least of the brethren with a cup of cold water. Let us, however, extend our charity toward the little feathered ones just a little further. Warm the water, so that it may stand outdoors the longer before it freezes. And do not set it out in the same pan you have warmed it in: the hot rim may burn the birds' feet. Pour it into another dish, one with an edge suitable for perching, and set it in a protected place. Thirst is often a worse distress than hunger when the world is locked up in ice.

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CHEMISTRY

Blue Dye Proves Successful Antidote to Cyanide Poison

A BLUE DYE, methylene blue by name, has proved a successful antidote in cyanide poisoning. It may also be useful in carbon monoxide poisoning.

A patient was brought into the Park Emergency Hospital, San Francisco, completely unconscious after taking potassium cyanide, a deadly poison. Methylene blue was injected into a vein and fifteen minutes later he had completely recovered. In reporting the case to the American Medical Association, Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director of Public Health for San Francisco, pointed out that the use of the dye was the direct result of a survey of the treatment of poison cases of all kinds as practiced by the Emergency Hospital Service of the Department of Public Health. The survey was made by Dr. P. J. Hanzlik, professor of pharmacology at Stanford University Medical School, and Dr. C.

D. Leake, professor of pharmacology at the University of California Medical School.

This survey was requested by Dr. Geiger a few months previously, after the futility of other methods of treatment was shown in three fatal cases of cyanide poisoning. A result of the survey was an outline by Dr. Hanzlik of modern antidotes and appropriate treatment of cases of various types of poisoning. This outline is now in use by the department, with the good results shown in the cyanide poisoning case just reported.

The use of methylene blue and of other dyes was suggested by studies of Dr. Otto Warburg and others, Dr. Geiger said in commenting on the recommendations of Drs. Hanzlik and Leake.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Palestine Cave Man's Jaw Found at Foot of Mt. Carmel

AN EXTREMELY massive and powerful lower jaw of a Palestine cave dweller has been unearthed in the Cave of the Oven at the foot of Mount Carmel.

Caves of the region near Mount Carmel are being explored for traces of ancient man by a joint expedition of the American School and the British School of Archaeology. The new discovery is reported to Dr. George Grant MacCurdy of Yale University by Miss Dorothy Garrod, British archaeologist who is leading the cave excavations.

The new jaw bone is pronounced by Dr. MacCurdy as new evidence that there were different types of men on earth as far back as the Mousterian period of the Old Stone Age. The unbeautiful Neandertal men of Europe, who lived at that time, had slouching gait, heavy eyebrow ridges, receding foreheads and weak chins. Skeletons of nine Neandertals found in a Palestine cave last spring revealed a different

type. The Palestine cave men had a slouching gait and heavy eyebrow ridges, but their chins were not receding at all, and their foreheads were not nearly so flat as those of their European contemporaries. The jaw which has been added to the collection of Palestine Neandertals agrees in all points with the rest of the Palestine specimens, thus strengthening the view that the skeletons represent a type.

In another nearby cave, known as the Cave of the Valley, the expedition has found remains of a cape or shroud made of the very small shells known as dentalia. A well-preserved necklace of shells and a number of flint implements are other relics from this cave, reported by Miss Garrod.

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Among the projects planned by the government of Iraq are a dam across the Tigris River and a channel from the Euphrates to impound water of that river.