

ZOOLOGY

**Pink-Cheeked Squirrel
And Three-Eyed Pig**

FREAKISH squirrels and other animals were an interesting feature of Pennsylvania's latest hunting season, according to Taxidermist C. O. Emery of Butler, Pa. The squirrels sent to him for mounting included an albino fox squirrel with natural pink fur on its cheeks, as though touched up with paint, a pure white chipmunk with jet black eyes, and an albino pine squirrel with a pale pink stripe down its back and up the center of its tail. There was also a coal-black groundhog.

Among the freaks of nature recently sent to Mr. Emery for mounting was a three-day old Hampshire pig having two normal noses and mouths and three eyes, one of the latter in the center of its forehead.

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BACTERIOLOGY

**Quota System Urged
For Germ Immigrants**

A QUOTA system to prevent overwhelming invasion of the human body by immigrating disease germs was suggested by Homer N. Calver, public health consultant and former secretary of the American Public Health Association.

To these microbes, each person represents a vast and fertile continent with abundant food and warmth and moisture, Mr. Calver said.

"Once given a foothold on such a new continent, these microbes may, if their invading army is large and powerful enough, destroy this new found paradise; or, in other words, kill their host.

"This results in death for them also, be it noted, but in the meantime countless emigrants, descendants of the original settlers, have left the host of their forbears to seek hostage in the warm, food-giving bodies of other human beings. There, in turn, they set up new colonies and continue their ceaseless struggle for survival. This is the way disease is spread."

Since microbes are hitch hikers, unable to get about without a lift, their invasion can be checked by refusing to give them free transportation. Mosquitoes, lice and fleas provide free rides for the germs of malaria, yellow fever, plague and typhus fever. Animals oc-

asionally provide transportation, as in the case of rabies or lockjaw. Water, milk and food sometimes act as common carriers for the microbes, and other convenient vehicle for these hitch hikers are eating utensils, glasses, cups, forks and spoons. A friendly handshake may give a free ride to the microbes, and so do the thousands of minute droplets expelled with every sneeze or cough.

The only sure protection against immigration of these hitch hikers is to cut the routes of communication by refusing them these free rides.

"It is important," Mr. Calver also pointed out, "to remember that mass of infection counts: the size and strength of the invading army. An unwashed glass may carry more germs than one which has been washed and one that has been merely washed will carry more than one that has been sterilized.

"We cannot prevent all immigration of these destructive micro-organisms but perhaps we can set up a system of quotas that will keep the undesirable ones from overwhelming us."

Mr. Calver discussed microbe immigration in a radio talk given under the auspices of Science Service over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

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FORESTRY

**Last Stand of "Penn's
Woods" Now U. S. Property**

FOUR thousand acres of forest still in completely primeval condition, in the northwest part of Pennsylvania, have been acquired by the U. S. Forest Service and will be kept untouched forever as an area where botanists, zoologists and foresters can study the life of a real wilderness. The forest consists of a mixed stand of hardwoods and hemlocks. Trails will be built, but without cutting trees. Not even camping will be permitted. (*Science*, Feb. 8).

The tract is of historic as well as scientific interest, for it is the last uncut, unburned remnant of the wilderness that gave the colony founded by William Penn the name "Penn's Woods"—Pennsylvania. On the 250th anniversary of the founding of Pennsylvania, in 1932, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association began its campaign to have this area, known as the Tionesta Tract, set aside as a natural monument. Its efforts have now been crowned with success.

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IN SCIENCE

PALEONTOLOGY

**Great German Fossil
Field Yields New Finds**

NEW finds of fossils dating from the Neocene, earliest time-division of the Age of Mammals, are reported from the great German lignite mine "Cecilie." They include the remains of bats, unusually well preserved, some 200 turtles, and a hitherto unknown species of lemur, a primitive relative of the monkeys and apes.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

**White Plague Still Leads
As Killer of Young Adults**

TUBERCULOSIS is still the leading cause of death in the population that is between 20 and 40 years old, Dr. Kendall Emerson, managing director of the National Tuberculosis Association, told medical educators at the annual congress on medical education held under the auspices of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Emerson pointed out eight lines of attack against the white plague. He urged that the importance of this subject be given more emphasis in medical schools so that the young physicians graduating each year are ready to do their part in stamping out tuberculosis.

The eight procedures which Dr. Emerson described for an anti-tuberculosis program, in which the cooperation of physicians is needed, are as follows: protection of the milk supply; early discovery of cases, segregation of infectious cases; protection of the child against first infection or, if already sensitized, against reinfection; elimination of proved industrial hazards; more attention to age and racial groups that show the highest proportion of infection; promotion of acceptable standards of housing and nutrition; intensive research; and eternally hammering away at the task of teaching a none too receptive public how to take care of itself through health education.

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E FIELDS

PUBLIC HEALTH

"Wonder of Life" To Open in Berlin

AN elaborate health exposition called The Wonder of Life will open in Berlin on March 23. The exposition has the double object of giving the public scientific knowledge of the structure and life processes of the human body and of impressing on each individual the benefits that healthful living will bring to himself and his race. Dr. Bruno Gebhard is director of the scientific division.

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MEDICINE

How Outdoor Workers Can Avoid Frost-Bite

SOME simple rules by which outdoor workers may avoid frost-bite have been worked out by Dr. Leopold Brahdly, of New York City.

Dr. Brahdly studied 388 cases of frost-bite among temporary snow-shovelers and permanent street workers that occurred in the New York City Department of Sanitation last winter. He has reported his conclusions in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Feb. 16). Here are some of them:

1. Postpone outdoor work if possible when the temperature is lower than 8 degrees above zero.

2. If it is lower than 14 degrees above zero and a strong wind is blowing, postpone all possible outdoor activity. High winds add to the risk, but humidity is not a factor.

3. Indoor rest periods every two hours during severe weather should be taken if possible.

4. If a worker develops numbness or if his hands or feet get white, he should lay off work for the day.

5. Don't wear too much clothing. Workers too warmly dressed stop work to cool off and then frost-bite gets in its work.

6. One pair of well fitting gloves or woolen mittens is better than two pair

that may be tight fitting. Fit is more important than thickness. The same is true of shoes. Shoes that fit with one pair of socks may be too tight when two pairs are worn.

7. Men with heart disease or diabetes should not be allowed to work outdoors when temperatures are low.

8. Rubbing snow on the frost-bitten parts may be all right in the Alps, but don't try it on our city streets where the snow is gritty, moist and dirty.

9. If frost-bite occurs, wrap the whole hand or foot in wool and let the body heat warm it gradually.

10. Don't go on working for several hours after the first feeling of numbness. This is dangerous. The soft tissues and bones will be injured, and sometimes amputation of the limbs is necessary.

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PALEONTOLOGY

Find Whale Skull 15,000,000 Years Old

THE skull of a long-beaked fossil whale which lived in Pacific Coast waters in the upper miocene geologic period, some 15,000,000 years ago, has been found at Point Reyes, near Berkeley, Calif., by Richard M. Bohart and George Bohart, undergraduate students at the University of California. The discovery marks the first time that remains of this particular species of whale have been found on the Pacific Coast of North America.

The skull is two feet long. It is minus its beak, with which feature it would have measured some five feet. The whale in its entirety was probably twenty feet in length, which places it in the class of smaller whales, such as the dolphins. Besides its beak, this type of whale is distinguished from those living today in that the top of its head was flat, while the modern form has a rounded head shape.

The Bohart brothers made their discovery while seeking insect specimens to be used for class work. In going over the ground, their attention was attracted by what appeared to be fossil fragments protruding from the base of a sandstone cliff. They investigated, and uncovered the skull among other fossil bits.

The specimen has been presented to the museum of paleontology at the University of California, where its reconstruction is being undertaken.

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ASTRONOMY

New Comet Now In Southwestern Evening Sky

JOHNSON'S comet, discovered early in January by a South African astronomer, is now passing through the constellation of Cetus, the whale, and will soon enter Pisces, the fishes. These are visible in the southwestern sky in the early evening from all parts of the United States. The comet is moving almost directly northwards through the sky at present. However, it is still too faint to be seen without a moderately large telescope.

The comet will be closest the sun on March 1, computations made at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, indicate. By that time it will be about four times as bright as when first observed, having increased from tenth magnitude to somewhat fainter than sixth magnitude, which is the faintest visible to the naked eye.

When the comet is brightest, the sun itself will be close to the same part of the sky, and the comet will set so early in the evening that it will be difficult to locate. It is not expected to rival any of the famous naked-eye comets of astronomical history.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Antitoxin Found O. K. by Federal Health Authorities

DIPHThERIA antitoxin manufactured by the Gilliland Laboratories in Pennsylvania and recently said to have been responsible for a number of diphtheria deaths in that state will not be recalled from the market, the U. S. Public Health Service announced.

Tests of the antitoxin have been made at the federal health service's National Institute of Health and Dr. G. W. McCoy, director of the Institute, has inspected the manufacturing laboratory itself. From information thus obtained the U. S. Public Health Service "considers it unnecessary to take steps looking to the withdrawal of any of the antitoxin produced by this firm which is now on the market."

The antitoxin is the material given to treat diphtheria and should not be confused with toxin-antitoxin or with toxoid, which are used to give healthy children immunity or resistance to the disease, health authorities pointed out.

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