

Mr. Bailey's chain trap such self-amputation is impossible. It is thus not only more humane than the steel trap, but considerably surer to hold its catch.

Another advantage which Mr. Bailey points out for his non-mutilating trap is the avoidance of neighborhood feuds due to the unintended capturing of dogs, cats, sheep and calves. A steel trap, even if it does not break a leg, is certain to cause at least severe bruising and laceration, which will not only cripple the animal but irritate the owner. But a chain trap causes no more inconvenience than making stray Towser stay away from home a little longer than he intended.

Mr. Bailey tells of a nice old shepherd dog that blundered into a chain trap he had set for a fox. When released, Shep followed his captor with waving tail and every apparent intention to "adopt" him, and it was only with difficulty that Mr. Bailey persuaded him to go home.

Bear traps of the present steel-jawed type, frequently armed with inward-pointing spikes, have terrible effects on unwary hunters or hikers who accidentally step into them. They always cause serious injury and intense suffering, and since it is impossible to open them without a special tool, men have been known to die of pain, starvation and thirst when caught in bear traps. A chain bear trap, on the other hand, causes no injury to even the most delicate ankle, and any human being can open it and escape in a few seconds.

#### Catches Himself

So little harm is there in the chain traps that Mr. Bailey's favorite method of demonstrating their action is to stick his hand into the loop and let it spring shut on his wrist or finger. He declines, however, to make a parallel demonstration with a steel trap.

A final advantage pointed out for the chain trap is its lightness, which will enable a trapper operating a long line of traps to carry a larger number—with, of course, correspondingly larger chances of making a profitable catch.

Mr. Bailey has also invented several other non-killing, non-maiming traps, including one which closes up around a beaver, holding him helpless but unharmed until his captor comes to take him away for "re-planting" in some old beaver stream, trapped out many years ago. Mr. Bailey has captured many beaver in this way. He says they are among the easiest of animals to make friends with and can be "gentled" in a few minutes.



#### PAINLESS TRAP

*The inventor himself, Vernon Bailey, veteran zoologist, does not mind being caught in his new and humane animal trap, made with a flexible chain loop. The light chain clings around his wrist, snugly yet harmlessly. You wouldn't do that with a steel trap.*

Mr. Bailey does not limit himself to beaver, however. He will undertake to put any animal he traps into a bag and take it home alive, if it is of a size he can lift. He has done this with many wildcats, coyotes, foxes, and other animals captured in his chain traps—though he admits that with bobcats it was "rather like going through a barbed-wire entanglement." Although Mr. Bailey is now an elderly man, and not a contender in the heavyweight division, he is quick and wiry from a long outdoor life. Moreover, he "just knows his bobcats."

Another animal guest which Mr.

Bailey has transferred from trap to bag, and taken home safely on his back, was in a sense more formidable than any bobcat—though it was of a species armed less for hand-to-hand combat than for chemical warfare methods. Yet by using plenty of diplomacy—and time—Mr. Bailey got Puss-in-Stripes into his bag, took him home, and kept him there for two days before turning him loose again. And all without the least interruption in amicable relations.

You can do anything with animals if you only use tact and a little animal sense, says Mr. Bailey.

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#### ZOOLOGY

## Bats, Captive, Like Diet Of Cheese and Minced Bees

**B**ATS, which would hardly be fancied as pets by most people, have been kept as more or less docile captives for months on end by Prof. William H. Gates of Louisiana State University. At the meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists in Philadelphia, Prof. Gates told of his experience in capturing and keeping bats of several species, and of his observations on their feeding and breeding habits.

Captive bats, he found, would feed willingly on a large number of things

that they cannot imaginably get in their native state. American cheese, cottage cheese, yeast, bees killed and cut into small pieces, minced insects of other kinds, bread, crackers, hard-boiled eggs, any kind of vegetable, any kind of unsalted meat, milk of all kinds—sweet, sour, evaporated, buttermilk, malted milk—all these the bats fed and thrived on.

They preferred cottage cheese above other artificial foods, Prof. Gates said, and would even (Turn to page 334)

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drop other foods they had already picked up, if they found it available. Their preference for bees rather than other insects might appear strange at first, for bats fly at night and bees by day, so that they do not normally meet. However, Prof. Gates suggested, the nectar carried by the bees may have given them an attractively sweetish taste.

All the food had to be chopped up very fine, for bats are rather helpless, with both arms and legs involved in their wide "leathern" wings, and their mouths are adapted only to the intake of very tiny morsels. Their meals must be served in very shallow dishes, as must also the necessary supply of drinking water.

### 30 Million Years Late

Okapi, queer-looking jungle cousin of the giraffe and one of the world's rarest mammals, is a "living fossil," 30 million years out of step with the times.

This is the verdict rendered by Edwin H. Colbert, research worker at the American Museum of Natural History. Mr. Colbert has made a careful examination of okapi skeletal material, and finds that though the animal is related to the modern giraffe, it is in all respects more primitive than any fossil giraffe known. He considers it to be more like what an ancestor-giraffe might have been, back in Miocene times, 30 million years ago.

Although not an extinct animal, the okapi is apparently about as near extinction as a species can get, and still survive. It was never seen by white men until the beginning of the present century, when its discovery by Sir Harry Johnston, then governor of the British province of Uganda in Africa, caused a furor in the scientific world and even a newspaper sensation. It lives in the dense tropical jungle, where its extreme shyness and skill at concealing itself make its detection exceedingly difficult. Not so tall or long-necked as the giraffe, it still shows its zoological kinship in its high shoulders, peculiarly shaped head, and little nubbins of horns.

### Looks Like a Bear, But Isn't

Panda, one of the strangest-looking animals that wears fur, has been put in the same family pew with raccoons, though to outward appearance it is more like a bear. The newest effort toward a correct classification of this puzzling beast was reported by Prof. William K. Gregory of the American Museum of Natural History.

The panda, which lives in the most inaccessible parts of the Himalayas, is

about as big as an American black bear, and is bear-like in appearance and general habits. It is marked like nothing else alive, with black legs, a black band around its body at the shoulders, black ears and a black spot around each eye; the rest of the creature is light-colored. (See SNL, Feb. 29, for picture.)

Prof. Gregory made an exhaustive

comparison of the bones of panda specimens, detail for detail, with the bones of bears and of raccoons, as well as with fossil remains of bear- and raccoon-like animals now extinct. Despite differences in size, there were more fundamental shape-resemblances between the bones of panda and raccoon.

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#### MEDICINE

## Heat, Cold and Scratch Allergies Added to List

**S**CRATCH allergy has been added to the list of conditions of hypersensitivity, Dr. Williams W. Duke of Kansas City reported to the American Medical Association meeting in that city.

Besides persons who are sensitive to pollen, such as hay fever sufferers, and those sensitive to foods, heat, cold and effort, reported at previous annual meetings of the American Medical Association, Dr. Duke has now discovered patients who are so sensitive to mechanical irritation that a slight scratch may cause them to develop any reaction from hives to shock and possibly sudden death.

Such individuals can be desensitized, Dr. Duke reported, by scratching themselves thoroughly each morning and evening with a stiff hair brush or bath brush. Similar treatment by small exposure to the causative agent, whether heat, light, cold or effort, will "cure" the hypersensitivity in the other patients.

### Swimming Danger

Danger lurks at the bathing beach for those unfortunate persons who are hypersensitive to cold. Facts about this peculiar condition were shown by Dr. Bayard T. Horton of the Mayo Foundation for Education and Research, Rochester, Minn., in the scientific exhibit.

Nearly half of the persons studied collapsed after they had been in swimming, and some had to be rescued from the water. Besides the general reaction, which may cause collapse and unconsciousness, discoloration of the hands and feet and marked flushing of the face may occur. In one patient, the temperature of the cheek increased several degrees at the height of the reaction. Cold air as well as cold water brings on the condition in susceptible persons.

Experimental studies showed that the reaction is a chemical one. The effect of the cold is apparently to increase the amount of histamine in the blood. This

substance, which occurs naturally in the body, produces similar disturbances of the circulation when injected into the blood stream.

Among the 20 patients suffering from this condition who came to Dr. Horton for treatment was a young farmer who had all his life been accustomed to going outdoors in the severe cold of Minnesota winters. Quite suddenly he developed the sensitiveness to cold which prevented his carrying out his usual farm duties.

A method of curing this allergic disease was reported by Dr. Horton. The cure for the condition is cold water. Immersing the hands in very cold water twice a day, Dr. Horton reported, cured the condition in all the cases he has been able to follow.

### Hay Fever Map

Havens for hay fever sufferers who owe their affliction to ragweed pollen were reported by Oren C. Durham, North Chicago, Ill., botanist. For ten years Mr. Durham has ranged the country making a scientific study of the amount of ragweed pollen in the air at various localities. Assisting him were volunteer and regular observers of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

Mr. Durham rated about a hundred localities in North America by means of a pollen index method he devised. Ragweed hay fever sufferers, it appears from his report, may find sneeze-free refuge in the following places: Sacramento, Miami, Reno, Portland, Ore., Seattle, Spokane, Prince Albert, Sask., and Mexico City.

### Blood Test

A new test for sensitiveness to certain foods was reported by Dr. Warren T. Vaughan of Richmond. Persons, who cannot tolerate certain foods, such as shellfish, milk, eggs, or wheat, have in the past been tested by a skin scratch