

in the face of the unborn baby's requirements for proteins, Dr. Strauss said.

During the last three months before the birth of their children, women whose blood contained normal amounts of protein were able to take either sodium chloride (salt) or sodium bicarbonate without any significant effect, Dr. Strauss found.

When he gave salt or soda to prospective mothers whose blood had less than the normal amount of protein, due part-

ly to eating too little meat, water was retained in their body tissues so that they gained from 5 to 20 pounds in weight within one week's time. At the same time, edema, or watery swelling of the tissues, appeared and the blood pressure rose significantly. Half of these women showed signs of kidney disturbance and one-third of them had symptoms such as precede an attack of convulsions.

*Science News Letter, May 15, 1937*

ICHTHYOLOGY-HERPETOLOGY

## Good Fishing in Panama Lakes; All They Need is Some Fish

**P**RESIDENT Roosevelt, fisherman, can not now have the pleasure of casting a line over the waters of what might be an angler's paradise—the Panama Canal Zone's two artificial lakes, Gatun and Madden, formed by the damming of the Chagres river.

Here, in the shadow of hills clad in rich tropical forests, disciples of Izaak Walton might taste the joys of tropical freshwater fishing. The only trouble at present is, there are no fish of the right kinds in the lakes.

At the meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Washington, Dr. Samuel F. Hildebrand of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries told of the plight of these two lakes.

The most numerous fish that live in them now are enemies rather than attractions to fishermen. They are small fish called characins, which attack and devour other fish. They have thus far defeated attempts to plant fingerlings of desirable game species in the lakes. So the only fishing that is possible at all is for tarpon that wander in from the sea.

Dr. Hildebrand proposed that game

fish for future plantings be held at the hatchery until they are from 4 to 6 inches long. "They will then be as large as or larger than the chief local predators and fully acclimated," he said. "Their chances of survival would be much greater."

### Suckers in Alaska

There were suckers in Alaska long before the tribe of Dangerous Dan McGrew trimmed their first three-card-monte victims. Long before the Pleistocene ice age, in fact. But these suckers were the real kind, with fins and gills.

At the meeting Dr. Erich M. Schlaikjer of the American Museum of Natural History described the fossil remains of a fish species found in Alaska, which most closely resembles the modern fish known as the long-nosed sucker.

Dr. Schlaikjer also described another fossil Alaskan fish, which belongs to the same family as the Mississippi River species known as the round sunfish. This entire family seems to have originated in North America and never to have emigrated, for fossils have never been found in any other land.

### Fish Choosy About Backgrounds

Many kinds of fish can change their skin colors to blend in with the kind of background against which they find themselves. But fish also know how to choose backgrounds that fit their natural colors, declared Drs. Frank A. Brown of the University of Illinois and David H. Thompson of the Illinois Natural History Survey. But the dark fish are the more careful choosers. Subjected to carefully controlled tests, dark fish chose dark backgrounds more often than light fish chose white backgrounds.

## RADIO

May 18, 4:15 p. m. E.S.T.  
THE SUPERIOR CHILD—Dr. John E. Bentley of the American University.

May 25, 4:15 p. m., E.S.T.  
STAINED GLASS—ART AND SCIENCE  
—Lawrence Saint, well-known artist of Philadelphia.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

### Altitude Makes Difference

Mountaineers are said to differ notably from lowlanders. That this is true among snakes at least, was attested by Charles M. Bogert of the American Museum of Natural History.

One species in the Southwest and Mexico, the patch-nosed snake, has two definitely distinguished races that occupy the same general area on the map. But one is found only in the lowlands, the other above 4,000 feet elevation. Neither is ever found in the other's habitat, though the mountain race forms several upland "islands" in the lowland population.

Where the two populations meet, near the 4,000 foot line, specimens showing intergradation between the characters of the two races are often found.

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RADIO

### European Television Received In America

**R**ECEPTION of some schedules of television transmitters in London and Berlin at Riverhead, N. Y., was reported to the International Scientific Radio Union and the Institute of Radio Engineers meeting jointly in Washington, D. C.

These signals were 40 to 45 megacycles, which is shorter in wavelength than even the short waves commonly receivable with present short wave sets. H. O. Peterson and D. R. Goddard of R. C. A. Communications explained that daily observations of these transatlantic signals had been made since the middle of January.

Such short waves are generally not considered to travel much farther than the eye can see. But direction measurements showed that at times the signal arrived from the reverse direction over the longest way around the world.

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Red color is rare in the flowers of England.

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