

## ORNITHOLOGY

**Eagles Did Not Fight  
When Nest Was Invaded**

See Front Cover

**E**AGLES do not always fight fiercely when a stranger approaches their nest. When Frank and John Craighead, authors of the new falconry book, *Hawks in the Hand*, climbed into a bald eagles' nest in a big sycamore tree on an island in the Potomac, this is exactly what happened: "We took several pictures of the young eagles, and while doing so we noticed that the parent birds were circling much closer to us and occasionally swooping almost to the nest. Their plaintive cries became louder and more excited. Finally one of the eagles perched on a neighboring tree."

That was all. Not until the Craigheads left the nest did the mother attempt to return to her young.

The Craigheads are twin brothers, now graduate students at the University of Michigan, who took up the ancient art of falconry as a scientific hobby while they were high school boys. They captured and trained their own hawks, and even trained owls. In their book they tell of their adventures, as far afield as Yellowstone National Park and the Canadian forests, in search of new species of hawks to study and photograph.

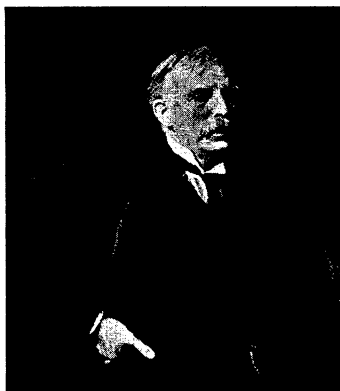
*Science News Letter, December 9, 1939*

## BACTERIOLOGY

**Bacteria and Fungi in Soil  
Help Prevent Erosion**

**S**OIL erosion prevention is not a matter of grass planting and reforestation alone. The microscopic "forests" of bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms that live in the soil also play an important role in holding it in place, it has been demonstrated in experiments by Drs. Selman A. Waksman and James P. Martin of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

Microbes can bind the soil in several different ways, they explain (*Science*, Sept. 29). Fungi and some bacteria form subterranean networks of thread-like growth, that have considerable mechanical holding power. Bacteria secrete slimy substances that glue soil particles together. All the organisms of decay act on dead leaves and other plant parts to change them into humus, which has a recognized high value in soil conservation.

*Science News Letter, December 9, 1939***RUTHERFORD**

the Life and Letters of  
**LORD RUTHERFORD**

by A. S. EVE

with a foreword by  
**EARL BALDWIN**

The story of a great scientist  
who was also a great man.

"In 1911 Rutherford introduced the greatest change in our idea of matter since the time of Democritus." This is SIR ARTHUR EDDINGTON's testimony to the historic place held by Lord Rutherford in modern science.

Head of the famous Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge, raised to the peerage for his scientific work, awarded the Nobel Prize, Rutherford had honours heaped on him. But all his life he kept his simplicity and modesty.

Professor Eve has told his life story, from his knowledge as friend and colleague, including a great many of Rutherford's own letters, going back to his early letters home to his fiancée in New Zealand, when he first went to Cambridge to be interviewed by the great "J. J."

"An authoritative life which does ample justice to Lord Rutherford as the greatest experimental scientist of our time." *New York Times*

"A vivid and intimate picture of the man and the rush of discovery that pivoted about him." *Science News Letter*

18 pages of illustrations

At bookstores \$5.00

The Macmillan Company