

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 1951—Chester I. Barnard—*Rockefeller Foundation*, 557 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 49 West 49th St., New York 20, N. Y. Describing the scientific work aided by the foundation.

A SHORT TABLE FOR THE BESSEL FUNCTIONS—C. W. Jones—*Cambridge University Press*, 20 p., paper, \$1.25. A short table published to meet the demands of workers in theoretical physics and quantum chemistry. Suitably modified forms of the Bessel Functions I and K of the accepted standard form.

THE SOIL THAT WENT TO TOWN—C. W. Gee—*Govt. Printing Office*, Soil Conservation Service AIB 95, 21 p., illus., paper, 10 cents. Showing graphically through a profusion of excellent photographs how soil erosion injures not only the farmer but the city dweller.

TEACHING AGRICULTURE: A Selected Bibliography—UNESCO and FAO—*Education Clearing House*, 52 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, UNESCO, 19, Avenue Kleber, Paris XVI. Designed as a guide to field workers.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1952

Do You Know?

Spinsters is at an all-time low in the United States.

Electrical *energy* is created when water moves through the earth's magnetic field.

Fish *proteins* are rich in the amino acids needed in chicken feed for normal poultry growth.

A cubic mile of *sea water* contains 166,000,000 tons of dissolved salts of the elements.

A new electronic temperature-taking instrument measures body *temperature* in less than 4½ seconds.

Fog makes driving difficult at night because each fog droplet acts as a many-sided mirror, reflecting light in all directions.

About 90,000 Americans are partly or completely *blind* because of scarred corneas—the normally transparent covering of the iris and pupil of the eye.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Williston Basin Promising

➤ THE WILLISTON Basin of the Dakotas and Montana gives promise of being one of the major oil fields of America, the American Petroleum Institute meeting in Chicago was told by S. F. Bowlby, Shell Oil Company, Los Angeles. The prediction is made on a basis of its geological structure and the success of wells already drilled.

The Williston Basin is a large area in the western part of the Dakotas and eastern Montana in the United States, and southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan in Canada. Drilling is now largely in North Dakota.

The first major oil discovery in the basin was made early in 1951. Since then some

75 new field wildcat wells have been drilled in the American area and have resulted in 13 discoveries of one sort or another. This is pronounced by Mr. Bowlby as a high success ratio, considerably higher than that for the entire United States during the past ten years.

At present, in the American area of the basin, there are 80 drilling rigs. About 120 seismic crews are studying geological structures with the underground sound wave method long used. Some 80% of the potential oil area is now under lease to oil companies. According to Mr. Bowlby, the activities show that, in the judgment of the oil industry as a whole, the Williston Basin constitutes a major oil province.

The Williston Basin, he said, is the largest basin of sedimentary deposition favorable to the accumulation of oil on the North American continent. Its sedimentary section reaches a thickness of 12,000 feet in its deepest part. This centers along the Montana-North Dakota border.

The total basin is not yet clearly defined because there is no real geological barrier between it and the great Alberta Basin, which includes the prolific fields of Alberta and extends northward into the Fort Norman area where oil has already been found.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1952

Because of bad weather, enough *protein* is lost each year during the field curing of hay to provide protein requirements of 7,500,000 cows for six months.

Questions

ASTRONOMY—How many eclipses are scheduled for 1953? p. 407.

...

ENTOMOLOGY—How do potassium fertilizers affect the red mite population? p. 405.

How many deaths have been prevented by use of DDT? p. 409.

...

GENETICS—Why are P.T.C. sweet-tasters being sought? p. 404.

...

METEOROLOGY—What has been the weather on the last four Inauguration Days? p. 402.

...

NUTRITION—What is now the No. 1 nutritional problem in the U.S.? p. 408.

...

RADIO—How was the formation and lowering of the radio roof finally detected? p. 402.

...

Photographs: Cover and p. 403, Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories; p. 405, Boeing Airplane Co.; p. 406, U. S. Air Force; p. 412, Eastman Kodak Co.

BIOLOGY TEACHERS

You can get better microscopic slides for less! Since comparative histology tells so much about the nature of man, this study should begin early and be enlarged on in the liberal arts and teachers colleges, and in the university. Like English, it should be a required study for all students in every school of intermediate and higher education. The result would be a better citizenry: better parents, better teachers, better preachers, better physicians, a better man, and a better society, which is the purpose of education. Premedical students should make comparative histology their biggest course, because the medical schools devote very little time to the study of this most important discipline. The medical students should realize that knowledge of cellular biology gives meaning to pathology, anatomy and physiology and is the natural and least costly approach to all medical problems. *Begin study histology in high school.*
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