

fresh water of a great range of sizes, i.e., from a few acres to many square miles—protozoa often occur in lakes and ponds.

In the Insecta, the regular number of walking thoracic appendages is six—insects regularly have six legs.

In climates where the temperatures are high—in warm climates.

That part of the seasonal cycle when the temperatures are too low to support plant growth—winter.

Changed by the above-mentioned subzero temperatures to complete immobility—frozen stiff.

Such examples of what one author called “redundant verbosity” occur in perhaps two thirds of all manuscripts submitted. If all of them could be eliminated (this is of course too much to hope because the editor himself is sometimes guilty too) the efficiency of the educational and scientific journals would be increased an unknown but significant percentage.

APPLIED BIOLOGY

Extremely varied were the part-time interests of GIs throughout the world during the last war. Playing cards, writing letters, going to movies, reading, and just “bunk fatigue” seemed to satisfy most of the boys but the writer had another which possibly was unique especially because it brought a very good financial return.

Assam, India where he was stationed, teemed with things biological, and since his interests were along such lines, he had much to occupy his spare time. Boxes of butterflies and other insects went gratis, of course, to teachers and museums but other shipments, to biological supply houses, netted a fair profit.

Thirty thousand preserved head lice, twenty thousand cattle ticks, hundreds of bed bugs, roaches, and water-tiger beetles were sold to these dealers in America. Even a few hundred microscope slides of

malaria, gonorrhoea, anthrax, and filaria smears were grabbed up by these houses. In fact the demand was so great after the writer brought the material home, he wished that he had brought home ever so much more.

Jars of preservative would be left with some Indian in a village who could, at least, partially understand English. Word was passed around and people would come to his hut and comb out their hair over a cloth placed on the ground. In addition to head lice, even bed bugs were secured in this manner. Since the Indians shaved off the hair on other parts of their bodies, no other forms of human lice were ever taken. The cattle ticks were gathered mostly by boys who soon learned that inside the cows' ears was the best place to look. All of the roaches, three inches in length, were taken in just two “First Class” railroad cars as they stood along a siding. The water-tiger beetles came from the flooded rice fields, and the slides of parasites were prepared in native tea-garden hospitals.

No doubt, the country was glad to be rid of these creatures although it would hardly miss these few, and the people were happy for the opportunity to earn a few cents as collectors although they were quite certain the soldier paying them had succumbed to the effects of the hot tropical sun.

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WINGLESS CHICKEN. Summer '49. Suppose you saw in the papers about the wingless chicken that has been bred. A man in the midwest developed it. From their pictures they are slightly smaller than the ordinary chicken. I think this information makes a good conversation piece. If they had only bred one without so much neck when I was a kid.