

Into a wooden frame Mrs. Briant fits two sheets of 8" x 8" glass, $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch apart; and into this space she puts one queen ant and about 200 workers with some of the processed soil. Here they live through the whole cycle of their hard working and autocratic regime. The queen ant is waited upon by her train of personal attendants; her eggs change to larvae, cocoons, and finally hatch into ants which, in turn, begin their ceaseless work until they finally die.

The pictures show: *Top Left*: Enlargement of main chamber of one of Mrs. Briant's ant palaces. The queen (the large ant) is surrounded by her attendants and minor workers, who look after her and carry off her eggs and larvae. Major workers, who do the rough work, building, and guarding entrances, are the darker ants outside the main circle.

Top Right: Mrs. Briant with a tray of freshly dug earth containing ants.

Bottom Left: The two glass sheets containing the processed soil.

Bottom Right: Eric Briant, son of Mrs. Briant, searches for a queen in an ant colony he has dug from the earth. Photos by British Information Services.

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BIOLOGY LABORATORIES

By The "Old Fossil"

MORTON ARBORETUM. Lisle, Illinois has some interesting sheets on botany and related subjects. They are in two and three colors. They have been distributed to many teachers in the Chicago area. Write if interested; perhaps you may secure copies. There are several dozen kinds. They are informative prepared-by-the-instructor-for-the-student type of material.

RAFFIA. A good project for your science club is to improve the appearance of the biology class room and laboratory. Woven raffia tinted with colors makes excellent supports for hanging potted plants and vines. Use them in place of the ordinary chains which are purchased for the purpose.

HEALTH FILMS, ILLINOIS, 16 mm sound, State Department of Public Health, Springfield, Illinois. *Report To The People*, about the department of Public Health; *Something You Did Not Eat*, good; *Your Child's Ears'* animated physiology; *Time Is Life*, early diagnosis of cancer; *Water Supply*; *Traitor From Within*, biological facts about cancer tissue; *This Is Tuberculosis*; *Time Out*, T. B. inception of disease to cure. Write to your own state department of Public Health; they perhaps have similar or the same films.

BLACK SQUIRREL. Driving on Sheridan Road in Winnetka the other afternoon thru a residential section belonging to VIP I saw a black squirrel. It was tame. I walked to within eight feet of it. I asked five of my biology friends before I found any information on them. There is a colony of black squirrel in Battle Creek, Michigan.

There is a colony of albino squirrels in Olney, Illinois. The citizens are quite proud of them. They have shipped pairs of them to other parts of the country but to date none have established themselves. They are the albinistic phase of the common gray squirrel. This conclusion was reached because they will interbreed with the common gray but not with the fox.

THE NATURAL HISTORY MAGAZINE for November 1949 has an article on these two phases of the squirrel. Published by AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, Seventy-ninth Street at Central Park West, New York 24. Edited by Edward W. Weyer, Jr.

FOOD VALUE CHARTS. Mr. Ludlow, who retires at the end of this year, has some very interesting charts in his General Science room. They are published by the NATIONAL LIVE STOCK AND MEAT BOARD, 407 S. Dear-

born Street, Chicago 5. This is the fifth edition.

AQUARIA. Certainly no biology classroom or laboratory is complete without an aquarium or terrarium of local fauna and flora. If there is to be only one by all means get a few of the native aquatic plants, amphibia, reptiles, fish, mammals and insects. Discuss the problem on a Thursday and ask who would get certain specimens over the week end. Write down their names and what they propose to collect. Mention it again on Friday. Week ends in the country help in these matters. Such trips serve as excellent conversation pieces for the student and class for the following week.

TERRARIA. The container for your terrarium may be a salvaged aquarium tank. Occasionally you will have an aquarium which is persistent about leaking. There are several themes to be worked out. Fern types are interesting. Local mosses are good. Insect eating plants make another type. The bog terrarium or the woodland terrarium offers variety in the type of planimals to be included.

BIOLOGY IN ACTION. This booklet published by ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Technology Center, Chicago 16, is interesting. The contents include recent developments in biology as exemplified in fields of genetics, bacteriology (antibiotics), physiology and biochemistry. The letter of transmittal from Dr. Leslie R. Hedrick states:⁶⁶ This pamphlet presents the philosophy of our department and especially emphasizes the relation of biology to chemistry, physics and mathematics in the light of recent experimental research." Free to teachers and advanced science students.

PLANT PRESERVATION. The preservative used for plants is often AFA. It consists of alcohol and formaldehyde both long known as preservatives for animals. The other is acetic acid. You know the value of vinegar for pickles. The three combined do not shrink nor distort plant tissues. AFA—Alcohol, Formalin, Acetic Acid. In the meantime it is the Old Fossil at 5061 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago 25.

PROGRESS IN HAWK AND OWL PROTECTION

Only six states still fail to protect any of the birds of prey, according to the first 48-state survey of its kind, published in the November-December issue of *Audubon Magazine*, organ of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Fifty years ago, when the first issue of *Bird Lore* (predecessor of *Audubon Magazine*) appeared, just five states offered any legal protection to the eagles, hawks and owls. The article asserts that despite this apparent progress, actual protection lags far behind legal protection. It is pointed out that few state conservation departments make any realistic effort to enforce the laws protecting birds of prey regardless of the fact they are charged with that responsibility.

The six states where birds of prey apparently have few friends are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, New Mexico, and Virginia. However other states—particularly Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire and Oklahoma—are also cited as having weak laws, and some states that have enacted "progressive" legislation are considered to be centers of prejudice against predatory birds. Many of the protective laws now in force are based on scientific research into the food habits of hawks and owls which, according to the article, reveals the value of these birds in controlling insects and rodents that exact a yearly tribute of millions of dollars worth of farm crops.

The article states, "There is no such thing as a 'good' or 'bad' species of hawk or owl; each has a role to perform in nature's economy; no species of hawk or owl is in itself 'destructive' in its ecological function."

The survey concludes that the future existence of several species of predatory birds is threatened and urges the enactment of "model laws" in all states and a program of education and law enforcement to prevent further depletion of these birds. A copy of the full survey will be mailed upon request to *Audubon Magazine*, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y.