

We now have enough different sets to run an entire year even though they are changed every two weeks. Here are some sources of our pictures and materials:

1. National Wildlife Conservation Stamp Sets. These stamps can easily be placed on the 3" x 5" cards. At least ten categories of 30 pictures each (Series 1938 to 1953). National Wildlife Federation, 3308 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.
2. Bird Cards. Sets of bird cards in color may be obtained free from the makers of Arm and Hammer Baking Soda. Church and Dwight Co., Inc., 10 Cedar Street, New York, N. Y.
3. Nature Game Cards. Sets of nature game cards, 60 pictures in a set. Sets on birds, butterflies and moths, wildflowers, and animals. \$1.25 per set. Nature Games, Angwin, Calif.
4. Ward's Mounted Butterfly Specimens. Supplement to common varieties netted by students. Priced from 20¢ to \$2.00. Wards Natural Science Establishment, Inc., P. O. Box 24, Beechwood Station, Rochester, N. Y.
5. Set of Hardwoods and Softwoods. 45 specimens, measuring 5" x 2 1/4" x 1/8". \$7.50. W. M. Welch Scientific Company, 1515 Sedgwick Street, Chicago, Ill.
6. *Sportsman's Guide To Wild Ducks*. Contains 16 beautiful illustrations, by artist Fred Everett, male and female of 16 common species. 25¢. National Wildlife Federation, 3398 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.
7. Fish chart in full color. 30 well-known freshwater fish of North America. \$2.00. National Wildlife Federation, 3308 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.
8. Golden Nature Books. Zim and Gabrielson, *Birds*. 265 species in color. \$1.00. Zim and Martin, *Trees*. 150 species in color. \$1.00. Zim and Cottam, *Insects*. 225 species in color. \$1.00. Simon and Schuster, Dept. G, 100 Sixth Avenue, New York 13, N. Y.
9. Pictures of birds, mammals, fish, which are to be painted. Send for price list. Slingerland Comstock Company, R. F. D. 3, Warren Road, Ithaca, New York.
10. Audubon Bird Charts. Set of four bird charts in beautiful natural colors showing winter birds, summer birds, birds of prey, and game birds. Price per set of four, \$2.50. General Biological Supply House, Inc., 761-763 East 69th Place, Chicago, Ill.

A Biologist's Life in West Germany

By "The Old Fossil," Wells High School, Chicago

The classroom phone rang. It was Principal Frederick. The central office had sent out a guest, who was interested in visiting a Chicago high school. Our guest was Dr. Richard Beatus, a professor in the State Teacher Training College and

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lecturer in zoology, botany, and general biology at the university in Brunswick, West Germany.

One of the first questions Dr. Beatus asked of a biological nature was, "Do you take many 'excursions' with your classes?" TOF explained that Wells is in a congested district of Chicago; field trips had been tried, but were difficult to supervise because of the economic status of many students and transportation difficulties. An occasional trip to the zoo or conservatory is the exception. Dr. Beatus said that his classes take three walks per week, from 3:30 to 8:00 A.M., for the study of birds and their songs. Saturday and Sunday trips of a longer duration are also a part of their schedule. On days when he does not take excursions, he is in his office at 6:30 A.M. Besides his regular teaching load, he conducts research on chromosome mutations in plants.

Principal Frederick took Dr. Beatus on a tour of the school. He was then escorted to TOF's afternoon class for observation. Wells, being very cosmopolitan, has many nationalities. He was greeted by one of the students in excellent high school German. After introducing Dr. Beatus to the class, TOF briefly explained his teaching philosophy. The students were as interested as the Doctor. In brief, it was a philosophy of how to live better, get along with people, and be a happy individual. The students then took over for the remaining class time.

At the close of the class, Dr. Beatus asked TOF the meaning of "core curriculum," mentioned in the introductory remarks. The Doctor explained that he had spent the previous week at the National College of Education in Evanston, had heard of "core curriculum," but was still a bit hazy as to its meaning. He was given a reprint of TOF's article, "Experiment with Biology in a Core Curriculum," Vol. 12, No. 8, *The American Biology Teacher*.

At TOF's home that evening the family and Dr. Beatus were in the garden having a glass of wine before dinner; an ear of yellow hybrid field corn was on the table nearby. "Maize? Do you eat it?" A negative answer to the latter question explained that it was used for food. Dr. Beatus had never seen sweet corn before, nor tasted it.

During the dinner hour the conversation revolved about comparisons of family life, living conditions, and the cost of living. Dr. Beatus said his family consisted of his Frau and three children. The oldest is 18 years of age. His wife is also a biologist, but his children do not cherish an interest in the subject. It pleased him greatly to observe that TOF's daughter is a biology student. Conversation turned to domestic help. "What do you have? How much do you pay?" He was told that domestic help does not exist in the Midwest. Industry takes these people. Mrs. Lichtenwalter did explain that one woman on a nearby street had a woman "come in" for \$7.50 per day, plus car fare,

a meal, and "a coffee break." He stated that, for the equivalent of \$7.00 they could employ a woman for a whole month. Taxes in Germany are 20% for the State, an additional 27% for Berlin, and an additional 7% for church (if you attend the latter).

Teachers in Germany are not well-paid. Elementary teachers receive \$90.00 per month, with increments every two years to near the equivalent of \$140.00. They are paid by the State. Transfers from one branch of service to another do not exist. Dr. Beatus receives 1,100 D marks, or about \$280.00 a month. Retirement is compulsory at 65. The pension is set at three-fourths of the teaching salary. Milk is 10 cents a quart, and coffee \$4.00 per pound. Most families use a coffee substitute of roasted barley and rye, at a few pennies per pound. Rent for six rooms is about \$35.00 per month. After describing the accommodations, this proved slightly lower than in Chicago. There is electricity for lights, an electric vacuum, and a small radio. No other appliances are available on a teaching salary. Foods are kept cool in the basement. Dr. Beatus enjoyed U. S. ice cream. In Germany it is more of an ice. He marveled at the abundance of foods and the complex methods by which we process them. He feels that we are foolish to pasteurize, evaporate, powder, condense, and dehydrate foods.

The teaching year is divided into four terms. Between terms, the instructors in teacher-training schools visit at least 12 of their students doing practice teaching in one-room schools. Dr. Beatus, in addition, takes a group of nearly 100 students on an 18-day summer tour of Northern Europe. The tour is by bus into Italy, France and adjacent areas, and costs the student \$40.00, paid to the State.

The final hand-shake at the hotel was accompanied by thanks for a small box of recent American biology textbooks from TOF's library.

It is apparent that these people are doing a fine job in education. Their city was 80% destroyed during the war; in many instances their population has been doubled by displaced persons; both are enormous handicaps. Germany's representative is well-versed in botany, and he has a keen insight into education, as displayed by his eagerness for more knowledge about the "core curriculum."

Books For Busy Biologists

SPEAR, F. G. *Radiations and Living Cells*. John Wiley & Sons, New York. xii + 222 pp. illus. 1953. \$3.50.

Although isotope research with living cells is a new and rapidly expanding field, this British summary notes the extensive history and wider aspects