

Light Protects Wheat Seeds

Washington—(Science Service)—Ultraviolet light protects wheat seeds against the chromosome changes that usually follow exposure to X-rays, a team of Indian scientists reports here.

However, the protection is only effective at certain levels of irradiation. M. S. Swaminathan and A. T. Natarajan of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, report in the current journal, Science.

Studies such as this one help point the way to improved plants and animals by indicating how changes or mutations are caused and what is involved when they do occur.

Pretreatment of the bread wheat seeds with ultraviolet for one hour significantly reduced the mutation rate following irradiation at 11,000 and 16,000 roentgens. Yet, the scientists find, there was an increase in the mutation rate when the pretreated seeds were exposed to higher doses at 22,000 and 33,000 roentgens. No mutations occurred in seeds irradiated with ultraviolet light alone.

Although the types of mutations that showed under the various irradiations were mostly similar, chlorophyll deficiency or the albina mutation turned up in plants treated with ultraviolet plus 16,000 roentgens of X-rays. Albina have not previously been recorded in mutation experiments with bread wheat, the scientists point out.

They suggest that ultraviolet pretreatment induces a mutation in the "factors" that control chlorophyll development in the plant.

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ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION — Swinging red banners and placards, Japanese demonstrators mass in the Diet (Parliament) Plaza, Tokyo, Japan, as they shout slogans opposing the revision of the U. S.-Japan Security Pact. Thousands demonstrated, protesting the treaty that will keep U. S. troops in Japan. Unofficial estimates report at least 415 persons injured in the melee.

Swiss Tourist Asset Threatened By Climate Change

Zurich, Switzerland — (UPI) — A gradual change in climate is threatening one of Switzerland's greatest tourist assets—the 95 big glaciers that girdle her Alpine peaks.

Like the "blue" Danube which turned a muddy gray many years ago, Switzerland's once ice-blue glaciers are getting dirtier and dirtier.

And what is worse — they are shrinking at an ever increasing rate. More and more cracks are opening up on their big, round backs that bend down over the mountain sides.

A series of long, hot summers and marked change in the Swiss climate are the main causes of a process that has alarmed many mountain-loving Swiss.

A recent study by the Swiss Alpine Club said that of 89 glaciers examined by experts last year, 83 have shrunk in length anywhere between 3 and 783 feet in 12 months. Shrinkage during this abnormally warm year has been even greater, although exact figures are not yet available.

What makes this especially sad from a tourist point of view is that those glaciers which protrude farthest into the valleys and are the most easily accessible are shrinking fastest.

The famous Grindelwald Glacier in the Bernese Oberland is "retracting" up the mountainside. The Fee Glacier in the Zermatt region has shrunk by 408 meters (1,337 ft.) within the last five years, and the Findelen Glacier by

478 meters (1,567 feet) in two years.

Glaciers Looked 'Awful'
At the end of this unusually hot summer, mountain climbers reported that the glaciers looked "awful."

"They are covered with dirt and dust," said Walter Kuhn, a scientist employed by the Swiss Weather Bureau.

"They are loosening up and are full of cracks."

Kuhn has been making special studies on climate changes in Switzerland.

"The average temperature in the Swiss Alps in the months from May to September — the period that affects the size of glaciers — has risen by as much as three degrees centigrade," Kuhn said.

Average Temperature
He said the average summer temperature at a level of 2,500 meters (8,200 feet) over the last 40 years has been 3.6 degrees C. Before 1942, that average had been exceeded in only three years, but since then it's happened almost every year. The temperature was 6 degrees C. in 1947, 5.2 in 1950 and 4.6 this year.

"Once the glaciers started shrinking in the late 1930s, the process was sped up progressively," Kuhn added.

"As rocks and mountainsides were bare, they began to crumble away under atmospheric action, covering the glaciers with dust and small rocks."

Absorbs More Sun
"A dirty glacier melts faster than a clean one. The darker its surface, the more it absorbs sun warmth instead of reflecting it."

The shrinking of glaciers, in turn, influences average temperatures. The less ice there is around on a summer day, the higher the temperature.

Search Continues For Jet Crewmen

Honolulu — (UPI) — Twenty-four planes and eight ships patrolled a 91,000 square mile area today in a search for four crewmen of a jet attack bomber missing since Thanksgiving Day.

The Navy and Air Force intensified the search after a report that a dye marker and what might have been a life raft were spotted in the ocean southwest of Wake Island.

The A3D jet plane has been missing since Thursday, when the pilot-Commander Francis J. Suhre, Amarillo, Tex., radioed that he was lost and out of fuel. He said the crew planned to bail out.

Also on the flight were Lt. (jg) Donald Schillinger, Hayfield, Minn., Aviation Machinist Mate 1-c R. C. Taylor, Nampa, Idaho, and Aviation Metalsmith 1-c J. D. Dulany, Fenton, Mo.

Astoria-UPI-Astoria Transit company has announced plans to go out of business because of lack of patronage.

Situation in London Market Sounds Like Earlier U.S. Story

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York — (UPI) — "Even bulls are mortal," says the headline of a lead editorial in the Financial Times of London.

The editor thereupon depicts the general market situation there—a situation that sounds exactly like ours a bit earlier in the year.

"The general market situation," he says, "now is one of high prices, low yields and booming confidence."

He notes that the governor of the Bank of England has expressed himself as disquieted by the equity boom, and he gives some sound advice that could be applied with equal force here:

"Before considering invest-

ing at all, the private individual must recognize that these are exceptional circumstances, that every past boom has been broken in the end, and that this boom will itself eventually come to a halt and reverse itself."

"It may well be possible to invest wisely once this fact has been accepted and understood, but to invest on the assumption that the market will rise in 1960 like it has in 1959 would be an act of presumption."

Several Factors
He lists several reasons for the London boom — sound economy, companies making excellent profits, good political climate, and a flood of money coming forward for investment.

Recently there has been less foreign buying in London and the editor explains this by noting that London share prices no longer strike the European investor as belonging to the bargain basement.

He then points out many groups that have not participated to the full in the rise and many growth stocks have good prospects but he concludes with a word of caution: "No investment should now be made without a careful eye on the general market position, and a memory of the fact that bull markets have not yet become immortal."

Wall Street letter writers read the editorial with a bit of envy for the wording of the

STRANGE CRITTER

Winooski, Vt. — (UPI) — A mysterious "whatsis" that police tried to capture for nearly a week after it was reported roaming in the city park at night turned out to be a three-foot-tall, 80-pound goat.

advice to investors. Never once did the editor use the word "selectivity," but he did make it clear that one should follow such policy. The Wall Streeters have been looking for synonyms for "selective" without too much success and recently their letters have apologized for using it time and again.

Rails Provide Some Cheer

Anyhow that's the way the Wall Street group feels just now. But there is some cheer in the recent firmer tone in the railroad shares and the fact that the rails didn't plunge into new low ground and keep going down.

Many market men just now feel that two groups, well below the market, have the potential of leading a recovery movement that could embrace

the whole list. These are the rails and oils. Each group has been neglected and each has been under some selling pressure from the investment funds.

This is the month the market usually gets into action on the upside. Tax selling usually ends early in the month

and new investment is added in the sums realized from previous tax selling and the interest of dividend and interest payments.

But Wall Street experts go along with the London editor in cautioning against following up the big gains made recently in some issues.

Faulty Bottled Gas Heaters in Trailers Can Be Death Traps

Washington — (UPI) — If you own an auto trailer heater, read this. It may save your life.

Sixteen Americans already are dead because they didn't get the warning or because they didn't take the time to check their heater.

The Public Health Service has announced that the heaters had snuffed out eight more lives. The service disclosed eight previous deaths when it issued its first warning last week.

Many Still Used
Nearly 1,000 trailers still are equipped with faulty bottled gas heaters that build up a deadly concentration of carbon monoxide gas in a very short time, the Public Health Service said.

A nationwide drive is underway to track down these heaters and fix them so they will be safe. More than 1,000 of the dangerous heaters have been located so far.

The heaters were one type manufactured by the Thurm Engineering Co., of Elkhart, Ind. They were put on the market in the past 18 months.

Deadly Fumes Released
The faulty bottled gas heater does not provide complete combustion. This means that deadly fumes are released

when it is used. The company has said the heater can be made safe by moving the fire box up a fraction of an inch. But this should be done by someone who knows what he is doing.

The problem of finding the faulty heaters is tough. They were sold to 82 trailer manufacturers and sent to 250 cities and more than 300 dealers.

Missile Fails To Photograph Earth

Cape Canaveral, Fla. — (UPI) — An Air Force effort to get the first full-color pictures of earth from the edge of space failed Tuesday.

The Air Force fired a Thor missile with a 16-millimeter movie camera in the nose cone. But the Air Force announced almost two hours later that it failed to recover the cone or camera from the Atlantic ocean 1,700 miles from the launching pad.

Camera-carrying missiles earlier this year made three successful trips with black and white film earth photographs from space, but this was the first effort at color pictures. Sources called it a weather reconnaissance test.

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