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Nest-Digging and Egg-Laying Habits of Bell's turtle

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ZOOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

MORPHOLOGICAL STUDIES ON THE INJURY TO APPLE CAUSED BY CERESA BUBALIS

J. C. GOODWIN AND F. A. FENTON

Histological studies through lesions made in apple wood by *Ceresa bubalis*, the buffalo treehopper, revealed the cause of the peculiar rolling out of the wood characteristic of wounds produced by this insect. Sections were made through one, two and three year old lesions. A layer of corky tissue is formed over the wood cells that are cut by the ovipositor and exposed to the air. The two layers of corky bark adjacent to each other do not unite and this bark formation results in a wedge-shaped section of the limb being separated from the remainder. Because of this, part of the cambium layer is isolated from the rest, and is prevented from uniting with the other cambium to heal over the wound. The severed part, as well as the other cells, continues to grow and the force exerted results in the peculiar rolling of the tissue. Older lesions increase in width but there is a corresponding decrease in depth. The mechanical injury is very severe and there are evidences that decay sets in due to the wounds. While these may eventually heal over the decay has already entered the heart wood and ultimately this secondary injury may kill the entire limb.

IOWA STATE COLLEGE

NEST-DIGGING AND EGG-LAYING HABITS OF BELL'S TURTLE

(*Chrysemys Marginata Belli* Gray)

FRANK A. STROMSTEN

During the summer of 1921 some forty or fifty Bell's turtles dug their nests on the side of a small hill just north of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. This afforded an excellent opportunity for the study of the nest-digging and egg-laying habits of this

species of turtle. When the turtle is digging her nest or depositing her eggs she is not easily frightened so that it is possible to get very close to the animal and to use a flash light within an inch or two of the body. On several occasions a number of students at the Laboratory were able to watch the entire process from the time the turtle landed on the shore until it returned to the water again. This paper presents more or less in detail the events that took place in the little more than two hours occupied by the turtle in digging the nest, laying the eggs, and concealing the nest.

SOCIOLOGY AS A SCIENCE

HORNELL HART

The term "social science" appears to be taken seriously neither by scientists nor by sociologists. Conditions in social research have justified that lack of confidence, but an increasing group has set about the systematic collection of data on specific social problems and is reaching results capable of objective verification. Three recent studies of the Sociological Division of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station illustrate this tendency. One of these measures and describes by statistical methods the selective emigration which threatens to impoverish socially certain rural areas of the state. A second study develops by means of partial regression equations the fact that the intellectually and economically successful classes in Iowa have much lower net fecundities than the unsuccessful and the ignorant. A third investigation is developing methods of quantitative analysis of social attitudes and interests.

SOCIOLOGICAL DIVISION, IOWA CHILD WELFARE RESEARCH STATION.

CHANCE IN DEVELOPMENT AS A CAUSE OF VARIATION

P. W. WHITING

Variation is ordinarily considered as due to internal hereditary factors interacting with external environmental factors during development. In experimental work with a parasitic wasp considerable variation has been found in certain pure-bred stocks kept at certain constant environmental conditions. Either at other constant environmental conditions or in other pure-bred