

it from small hollows in granite outcroppings on Arthur's Rock, west of Fort Collins, and overlooking the plains, elevation about 6,800 feet; about four miles east of Allen's Park, elevation about 8,300 feet; and on Old Man Mountain, just west of Estes Park village, elevation 8,300 feet. In these little hollows it was often quite abundant, but smaller than individuals from the alpine ponds. This might well have been due to the lack of food in these temporary puddles. I have also found it in the ponds of the thick timber around the 10,000 feet levels.

I have assumed in the past that wind was a considerable factor in distribution. The eggs undergo desiccation and might then be carried by the wind. The hollows were on exposed outcrops. The winds of the winter half of the year are often quite strong, and prevailing from the west or northwest, so that the eggs could conceivably be carried out over the middle and lower mountains, and dropped in the small hollows which are characteristic features of the rock ridges and outcrops.

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A TEMPORARY RESPITE FOR THE WHALE

THE past season's whaling operations resulted in a killing orgy, chiefly in the Antarctic, that broke all records. The world catch, of late increasing from season to season, amounted last year to 38,563 whales, which yielded more than 3,427,000 barrels of oil. The supply so far exceeded all ordinary demands that whaling vessels were laid up and much oil stored. Present-day whaling is largely a Norwegian industry, about which there is not much general knowledge in this country. Naturalists concerned about the supply of whales have been wondering what the next move of the industry, with its huge investment in specially built steamships, would be.

Information received last week from a Norwegian friend in Tonsberg, who knows what is going on, throws light on the subject:

... So far as I can gather, the outlook is this: Next season only the modern vessels will go out, and that only provided they have been able to sell the oil in advance. There is still a quantity of say 500,000 barrels unsold of last season's catch. . . . Sandefjord, Tonsberg and Larvik are the New Bedford, New London and Nantucket of Norway at the present day, with Sandefjord leading. I visited that place the other day, and I must confess that the harbour was a truly magnificent sight; whale catchers in long rows, one alongside the other, and the huge factory ships completing the picture. Some 8,000 men are idle at home this year. . . .

My correspondent adds that only two fleets, those of Leith and Liverpool, comprising four factory steamers with their complete sets of whale catchers, have been sent out. Early last summer I boarded one of the big Antarctic whalers, unloading her oil—55,000 barrels—at Staten Island. She had taken 1,445 whales.

The species chiefly pursued in Antarctic waters are blue whale and finback, which did not figure in the catch of the old time whaler. His methods were less effective. Other kinds of whales, such as sperm, right, humpback and sei, are no longer abundant. These were greatly reduced in numbers during the nineteenth century. The grey whale has become a rarity and the once important bowhead does not figure in modern whaling at all.

There is a year's supply of whale oil on hand. Whaling ventures as a whole are in abeyance until next fall. It is evident that the stock of whales has greatly decreased. It would be deplorable if the last season's slaughter were repeated in 1933, and the world's most important animal-oil resource seriously damaged.

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EPIZOOTIOLOGY

THESE pages frequently serve as a hospital for sick words. May I therefore bespeak a bed for "epizootiology," whose usefulness appears to have passed and who may well be relieved by the more vigorous word "epidemiology"?

I am acquainted with some learned men who think it an outrage to apply this most valuable word to the spread of disease among animals, men to whom presumably the epidemiology of anthrax conveys a totally different idea from the epizootiology of that disease, but who may be puzzled to find any word for a spreading disease among insects. Surely the idea which is carried by the word "epidemic" centers on disease, and "the spread of disease" as a separate idea does not fundamentally concern the association of that disease with plants, men, animals, land, sea, Europe or America.

Where words are concerned the purists lose in the end; and in spite of what may be said to the contrary common use is often common sense. Valuable new words grow into definite meanings of their own and forget their origins, while bad words die. There can be little doubt that "epidemic" is growing into the recognized English word for disease spreading amongst any community.

A recent correspondent of SCIENCE writes that "the English language would be in better shape if some