

around but less abundant during winter. Agar can be made from this species also; that produced so far has been of inferior but usable quality. Difficulty has been encountered in bleaching *Hypnea*, although perfectly bleached pieces are sometimes found along the beach.

Tests on species of algae that are not sufficiently abundant at any time of year to afford a significant supply of agar are being carried out in the hope that, should some exceptionally favorable species be found, methods for cultivation can be worked out. *Lomentaria uncinata* Meneghini, for example, yields a very high percentage of agar, but because it is such a small plant and not very abundant, it is commercially out of the question. Many species at Beaufort are restricted in abundance only because of the limited extent of suitable surfaces to which they can attach.

Early in June determinations were made on the alginic acid content of two species of pelagic Sargassum, *S. natans* (L.) Meyen and *S. fluitans* Børgeesen. Apparently the alginic acid content of these is very small. Similar determinations are planned for all the more common, large species of brown algae.

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THE CAUSE OF DOMESTICATION

THE suggestion that the dog may have been domesticated in part for its value as a scavenger¹ may have some pertinence, but we should not forget that primitive people do not object to smells as much as we do, and that they seem to care very little about sanitation. Moreover, most of them lived so they could move easily and probably they did move rather frequently, thus wittingly or unwittingly solving the refuse problem.

While utility has been a great factor in all domesticating, it is not all-powerful, for, if it were, the list of domesticated organisms would be much larger than it is. In other words, we could profitably use the qualifications of many that have not been reduced to domestication.

It is nearly, if not entirely, true that prehistoric man did all the domesticating. Hence, if we are not prepared to admit that he had faculties along this line superior to those of historic man, we must conclude that the organisms domesticated, themselves contributed to the result. As the admission can scarcely be made, the conclusion is unavoidable. The dog is a clear example; it prefers to associate with man. Tamability exists in gradations; some creatures readily tame, others are refractory. The domesticated forms derive from the more susceptible kinds and, considering primitive man's success in contrast to advanced man's failure in domestications, it seems certain that

the organisms involved must have had favorable tendencies to that state and must have helped to domesticate themselves.

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OFFPRINTS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC MEN OF SOVIET RUSSIA

I HAVE recently received a letter, dated May 25, 1942, from Professor Alexander R. Luria, the prominent Russian psychologist. Professor Luria, whose book in English, "The Nature of Human Conflict," is well known to American readers and who was scheduled to visit this country to deliver the Salmon Memorial Lectures at the New York Academy of Medicine, is now in the Province of Cheliabinsk in the Ural Mountains. He is directing a clinic for the rehabilitation of the brain-injured in the war. He writes that he and his colleagues are very much in need of offprints from recent original American publications in the field of brain pathology and abnormal psychology, particularly those dealing with re-education and neurosurgery. He would like to receive such material as immediately as possible.

The American-Russian Committee for Medical Aid to the USSR, of which Prince Vladimir V. Koudasheff is the chairman and Dr. Michael Michailovsky is the treasurer, has kindly offered to transmit to Professor Luria literature sent to them and designated for him. Their address is 55 West 42d Street, New York, N. Y. It is also possible to mail directly to Professor A. R. Luria, Neurosurgical Rehabilitative Clinic of VIEM, Kisegatch Sanatorium, Cheliabinsk Oblast, USSR.

It is hoped that American scientists who have pertinent material will heed this call. It may furthermore be presumed that the needs of Professor Luria and his clinic are typical, and that in general American scientists who have formerly corresponded with Russian colleagues should continue sending important offprints that in some way bear upon war needs. Indeed, only three months ago the writer received a request from the Tbilisi Institute of Physiology for an offprint that is neither very important nor remotely related to war research. However, the situation has doubtlessly changed since, and correspondents may do well to discriminate for the time being in what they send.

The U. S. Post Office accepts first-class matter and printed material not exceeding four pounds and six ounces for mailing to the USSR, and wherever locations of institutes and universities have been changed, as many have, the Soviet authorities no doubt have the information for proper forwarding.

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