

cent., whereas south of this point the CaCO_3 content is always considerable, reaching a maximum of 17 per cent. in North Carolina. Farther south, judging from inadequate samples, even higher figures are reached: a sand from Flagler Beach, Florida, contains 57 per cent. CaCO_3 .

7. Although on superficial examination the shell fragments seem to be concentrated in the coarser fractions of the sand, in almost all the samples tested the sand averages slightly coarser after the shell material has been leached out by dilute HCl , implying that more of this material exists in a fine than in a coarse state. However, the differences in fineness between the leached and unleached sands are usually so slight that for ordinary purposes no account of the shell material need be taken when the average fineness of a sand is computed.

8. There seems to be a slight tendency for the coarser sands to contain the most CaCO_3 , although this tendency is so slight that its reality might perhaps be questioned.

A more detailed paper is in the course of preparation, and will appear elsewhere in the near future.

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THE SPECIFIC EFFECT OF VITAMIN B ON LACTATION, GROWTH AND WATER METABOLISM¹

IN previous communications it has been demonstrated that when the maternal diet is inadequate in vitamin B there develops, just as in the case of non-lactating rats, a reduction in food intake during lactation,² and, in the absence of specific information, the failure of nursing young on such a dietary régime was attributed entirely to the reduction of the plane of nutrition. We now have conclusive evidence that vitamin B, in addition to stimulating the appetite, exerts its specific beneficial influence on the animal organism, as evidenced by the lactation efficiency index, unrelated to food intake. Such results have become apparent by the introduction of the paired feeding type of experimentation, *i.e.*, lactating females are restricted to the same amount of the daily intake of food and water as the litter mates receiving the vitamin B deficient ration. Keeping the plane of nutrition constant, the effect of vitamin B *per se* on the reduction of infant mortality and growth of nursing young becomes very pronounced. In addition, we are at present finding that vitamin B exerts its specific influence on growth, also that there is a definite relationship between water and food intake in this

¹ Research Paper No. 197, Journal Series, University of Arkansas.

² B. Sure, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1928, 76, 685; *J. of Nutr.*, 1928, 1, 139.

avitaminosis. An excess of the proportionate amount of water to the reduced food intake, after this deficiency disease has progressed to the more accentuated stages, is detrimental to the organism. These observations will soon appear *in extenso* elsewhere.

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THE ESKIMO WORD "IGLU"

THE article by the Reverend George W. Lay in *SCIENCE* of December 5, last, says that "if one is going to use a phrase or word from a foreign language, it is quite necessary to know the meaning in that language." There is a special reason for applying this principle to the Eskimo word *iglu* (*igloo*, *igdlu*) which crops up with increasing frequency all the way from kindergarten songs through travel tales, school geographies and movie titles to anthropological manuals and text-books on architecture.

Many of the text-book writers and probably all the movie directors think that "*iglu*" is the Eskimo word for snowhouse. But few scholars have known better the language they wrote about than Samuel Kleinschmidt knew the Eskimo of western Greenland. Defining *iglu*, he says:¹ "A house. It appears this word . . . was formed from *ikiva* and therefore the fundamental meaning appears to be something within which to lay or shelter oneself; the house is therefore spoken of as a *shelter from the weather*." (Italics ours.)

This definition was a result of a lifetime spent by Kleinschmidt in Greenland; I have spent ten winters among the Eskimos of Alaska and northern Canada applying myself steadily to the language, and one result is my definition of *iglu* as a *more or less permanent shelter for man or beast*.

Naturally, this very general word is used in any district most often for that type of shelter which is there most common—if *iglu* is in use in that dialect.

Noticing that *iglu* is, in the Smith Sound district of Greenland, most commonly used for houses of earth over a framework of wood, bones or stone, Ekblaw² discusses the difference between *iglus* and snowhouses. Other writers have done the like for other districts

³ A. Gulick, *Amer. J. of Physiol.*, 1922, 59, 483; *ibid.*, 1924, 68, 131; J. C. Drummond, and G. F. Marrian, *Biochem. J.*, 1926, 20, 1229; H. H. Mitchell, and J. R. Beadles, *J. of Nutr.*, 1930, 2, 225.

¹ "Den Grønlandske Ordbog," Copenhagen, 1871.

² "The Material Response of the Polar Eskimo to Their Far Arctic Environment," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. XVII, December, 1927.