bergs which survive the journey of possibly two and probably three years. Therefore, if one may presume that the number of bergs completing this journey is related to the number beginning it, any unusual number of bergs calved from their parent glaciers in 1922 and 1938 would be reflected by unusual berg counts south of 48° in 1924 or 1925 and 1940 or 1941 respectively. The berg counts for these years were:

Year	Berg Count	Year	Berg Count
1924	11	1940	2
1925	109	1941	2

There are, however, many variable factors combining to produce the more than 90 percent mortality which the bergs suffer during their two- or three- year journey from Greenland to the Grand Banks and these factors have yet to be evaluated quantitatively. Fluctuations in these factors may or may not leave valid the presumption that a large number of bergs calved in any one year will be reflected as a large berg count south of the 48th parallel two or three years later. If it is valid and if the author proposes to gauge the size of the crop of northern bergs produced in 1949 by the number which appear in the Grand Banks region, the success or failure of the prediction made will not be known until 1951 or 1952; but if the author means that an outbreak of ice was due in the Grand Banks region in 1949, then the prediction has already failed, since only 47 bergs are estimated to have crossed the 48th parallel in 1949.

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Reaction Time of the Common Housefly (*Musca domestica*)

During the course of unrelated ballistic experimentation, the opportunity presented itself to observe the reaction time and rate of wing stroke of the common housefly by means of high speed cinematography. The fly was walking near the edge of a flexibly supported plate of bullet-resistant material approximately 6 in. square. A bullet fired at the center of the plate approximately 3 in. from the fly caused the flexibly supported plate to be jerked away from the fly's feet with great rapidity, leaving the fly suspended in the air.

Analysis of the high speed motion picture record (about 2,400 frames per sec) revealed that the fly remained suspended in the air for a short time. It was then caught in what appeared to be a downdraft and commenced to fall, without showing any sign of wing activity. It had fallen perhaps ⅛ in. before it began to beat its wings. This occurred 21 msec after its support had been jerked away. About 1 msec before the first wing motion, it appeared to extend its rear legs to the utmost, as though attempting to spring from the nonexistent support. Although camera focus was not good enough to reveal fine detail, the fly appeared to execute this motion three times at intervals of slightly more than 1 msec. These motions may represent a stereotyped pattern of launching, carried out without realization that the support was no longer in position (Fraenkel, G. *Z. vergl. Physiol.*, 1932, **16**, 371).

Shortly after (about 0.01 sec later) the plate rebounded and nudged the fly, turning it upside down. Despite this, and despite the apparently strong air currents buffeting it (caused by the violent movement of the plate), the fly continued to beat its wings strongly. It finally righted itself accidentally by colliding with the support and flew out of view of the camera. Its wing beat frequency through these vicissitudes continued approximately constant, as far as could be determined, at about 212 strokes per sec.

Unfortunately no record had been kept of the room temperature, but this is believed to have been in the neighborhood of 75° F.

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I. Q. and Month of Birth

In a recent article (*Science*, 1949, **110**, 267) C. A. Mills claims impressive advantages for children conceived during the cold months of the year. He says, "In any field of accomplishment one investigates, the advantages of cold-weather conception stand forth in bold relief."

We have some experience in the Philadelphia public schools that tends to give mild support to this statement. Children admitted to school in September consistently have slightly higher average scores on both aptitude and achievement tests than do children admitted to school in February. Pupils admitted in September generally are those who were conceived during the months of September through March. Children admitted in February are those conceived during the months of April through August.

As was true of E. Huntingdon's studies (*Season of Birth*, New York: Wiley, 1938; and *J. genet. Psychol.*, 1944, **64**, 323), there are factors other than the season of birth that tend to explain why children in the classes admitted in September have higher average scores in tests than children in classes admitted in February. For example, the number of pupils admitted in September is larger than the number admited in February because such admissions represent a seven-month crop of births in contrast with the five-month crop in February. The larger wave of enrollment in the September classes tends to be equalized with the smaller wave in the February classes because of retardation and failure. More pupils fail from the September classes into the February classes than fail from the February classes into the September classes. The result is that the September classes normally have a smaller proportion of low I. Q.'s than the February classes.

In order to analyze further the possible effect of cold weather on conception a part of Pintner's study (Pintner,