

hunting together. But I don't think that view can be sustained. I have seen Jim's dead lying in heaps, not in the ark itself or under the ark, but in a gorse-shaded ditch a few yards away to which they have been dragged. It is not hunger but murder that piles them up like that in one night, and the murderers, as the traps show, have been full-grown ferrets.

JIM was incredulous when I told him that the skins of his 23 ferrets would have brought him £50 if he had caught them a year or two earlier. That, however, was information that it would not have given him much trouble to verify. But I read today that the value of a ferret when I was a child was three or four pounds, and that

FEBRUARY 24 anyone, the year I was born, could claim a substantial bonus if he successfully introduced stoats and weasels. I don't know whether the bonus was ever paid, but stoats and weasels arrived when I was two, and most of the ferrets then in the country had cost the community three guineas each. This, I imagine, was a little more than was paid for my own entry.

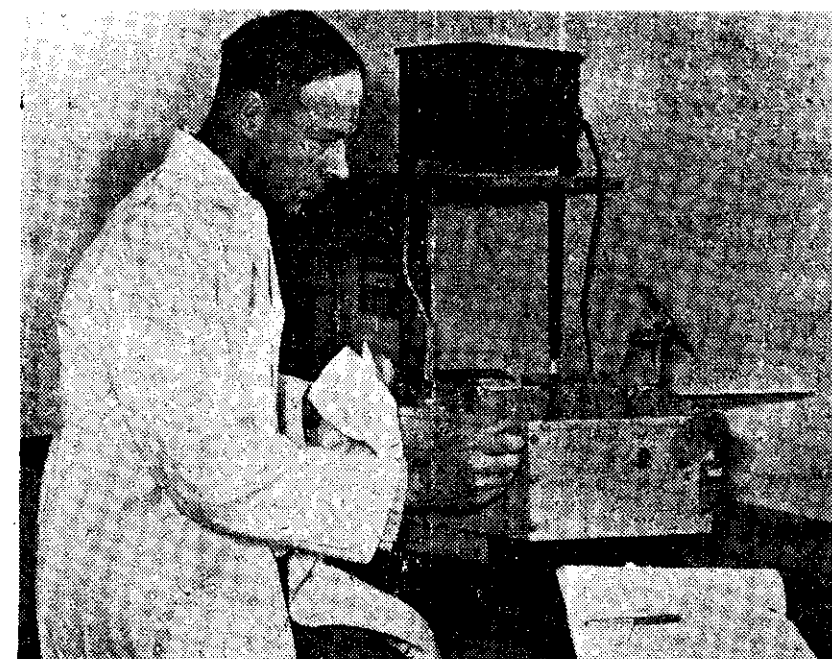
Though ferrets are closer to minks than goats to sheep and rabbits to hares, we don't seem to have tried in New Zealand to exploit the relationship commercially. We go on, too, in our innocence calling stoats stoats and not ermine. There are however mink farms in England, and I have seen it stated in an English newspaper that a live mink is worth about £25. Dried skins I have seen quoted at six to seven pounds, and it would seem therefore on paper that a man with £100 and no nose might add

something to his income without taking big financial risks. But I have also seen it stated in a standard work on natural history that minks emit a more offensive odour than ferrets, weasels, and stoats combined, and are surpassed only by skunks in their power to disgust and nauseate. That, I imagine, is the answer to the easy money argument.

[T takes a good deal of enthusiasm to sit for seven hours on bare boards with two, and usually three or four, leather-bound feet prodding one at intervals from the middle of the back down. So far I have been equal to this, though I foresee the day when a cricket match will impose too big a strain on my nerves and years.

FEBRUARY 28 But cricket is a soothing game, and a cricket crowd the most placid out of church. Even at international matches the exciting moments come infrequently and soon pass; and the rest is passive contemplation in the sun. The sun however does not always shine; the wind sometimes blows; the dust and waste paper sometimes rise; and it is in moments like these that spectators ask themselves where the "gate" goes. They know that big gates balance little gates, and pay for days with no gates at all. But they know, too, and sometimes remember, that business follows the satisfied customer. It never yet came riding on the wind ahead of dissatisfied customers, or patrons patient enough to hope, and go on hoping, that they will get better service when their suppliers have mastered the art of hoisting themselves by their own shoestrings.

(To be continued)



National Publicity Studios photograph

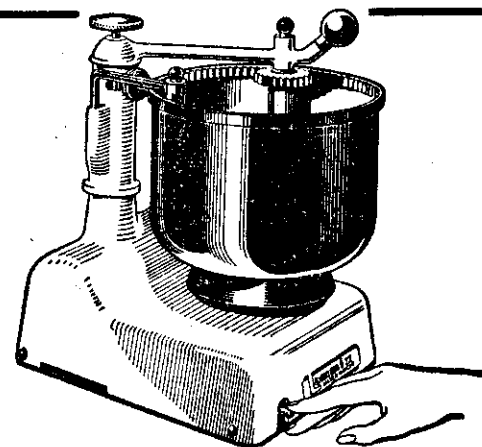
WHITE, you might think, is white (the opposite of black), and that's all there is to be said about it, but P. Carlyon Coates and his photo-electric reflectometer, above, know better. As Mr. Coates will explain in a "Science Commentary" talk from YA and YZ stations at 9.15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, the photo-electric reflectometer measures whiteness—whether, for instance, a sheet has retained its original colour after, say, half a dozen washings of a given kind. This is part of the job done for the laundress, dry-cleaners and dyers of New Zealand by their Research Institute, which has its laboratory at the Wellington Hospital. Apart from commercial laundresses and cleaners, most hospital boards are members of the Institute. In his "Science Commentary" talk, Mr. Coates, who directs the Institute's work, will talk about its research and the service it gives to members in other ways, and he will mention some of the surprising indirect results of its investigations

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