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"Feeding Value of Pasture Grasses. . . (2) 1930

"The fact that immature grasses are high in protein and low in crude fiber and that the percentage of protein declines and the percentage of crude fiber increases as the plant matures was discovered as far back as 1883 by research workers in the United States Department of Agriculture, was studied in more detail by Morse at New Hampshire in 1888, and has been confirmed by other investigators from time to time since then; but, apparently no attempt has ever been made to take advantage of this most important discovery in feeding livestock."

"Research No Solution to Pesticides (3) 1964

"Game-management specialists have been researching their field since 1918 and the findings of 1963 jibe almost exactly with those of 40 years ago. What has been done with their carefully compiled notes? Nothing. We are not only faced with the same old problems but with many more as well. The books and studies gather dust, and an expanded and stepped up research program is urged. The sad fact about many research programs is that nothing is ever done which puts the available data to use. It should be obvious to one and all that unless we cash in upon the hard work of previous minds that their work is wasted. More to the point, unless the findings are put to work at a practical level in the field then we are knowingly slitting our own wrists."

Chemistry's Big Mistake (4) 196

"Chemistry has received an embarrassing nudge because at least a million scientists during the last half-century failed to be skeptical about a simple gas experiment.

Essentially, chemistry students the world over have been taught and have accepted the idea that chemical elements called inert gases would not combine with other chemical elements to form compounds. This has now proved to be wrong.

The table-turning discoveries began last summer when Professor Neil Bartlett of the University of British Columbia mixed colorless xenon gas with a brownish platinum hexafluoride gas. . . ."

Then three scientists after repeating Bartlett's work, managed to arrive at a simpler process. The result: colorless crystals of a new compound--xenon tetrafluoride.

As one scientist concluded: "There is a sobering lesson here. . . . All that was required to overthrow a respectable and entrenched dogma was a few hours of effort and a germ of skepticism."

"The Calf Path" (5)

"One day through the primeval wood

A calf walked home as good calves should;

But made a trail all bent askew,

A crooked trail as calves all do, . . ."

"The path became a village street;

And this, before men were aware,

A city's crowded thoroughfare,

And men two centuries and a half
Trod in the footsteps of that calf.

A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf near three centuries dead.

For men are prone to go it blind
Along the calf paths of the mind

And work away from sun to sun
To do what other men have done

They follow in the beaten track
And out and in, and forth and back,

And still their devious course pursue.
To keep the path a sacred groove

Along which all their lives they move."

Carlyle