

Whenever the farmer fancied a marron meal he simply netted a few of the biggest. However, the marron were said to be multiplying so rapidly that feeding them was becoming a problem although, fortunately for the farmer, kangaroos were plentiful in that area in which an open season applied.

### Sea Stinger Kills Girl

Last month, a nine year old Queensland girl was stung to death while bathing in the sea near Cairns. The girl ran screaming from the surf and fell dead on the beach.

This was Queensland's sixth fatality, attributed to a sea stinger in less than ten years.

Dr. R. Endean, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Zoology of the University of Queensland, said that it could be safely assumed that the child's death was caused by a sting from Chironex fleckeri - the jellyfish thought to have been responsible for the previous Queensland sea-sting fatalities.

Although the stinger, commonly called the box jellyfish, was known to be able to swim quite fast and to dislike noise, very little was known about its venom and its ability to kill. The animal was said to have as many as 60 tentacles which could extend from one foot to 12 feet. Each tentacle had thousands of minute cells capable of injecting poison through harpoon-like darts.

### Pelicans Nest in Peel Inlet

Following up a report from Mrs. H.W. Norris, of Beverley, two of our officers, on January 16, found an established pelican nesting site on a cay near the southern shore of Peel Inlet. They were Fauna Officer H.B. Shugg and Fauna Warden N.E. McLaughlan, who confirmed that these birds, not previously recorded as breeding south of Shark Bay, had in fact, raised quite a number of young, ranging from fledglings to newly hatched squabs. A more detailed report on their findings will be included in the next issue.