

DEADLY PEST OF FLIES.

TERRIBLE RAVAGES OF THE BUFFALO GNAT IN THE SOUTHWEST.

Men and Cattle Stung to Death—Belongs to a Family Widespread Over America and Europe—There Are Sixty Varieties—How Animals Act When Attacked.

From the South and the Southwest come reports of a plague of flies worse than that which helped to obtain the liberation of the Israelites from bondage in ancient Egypt. In Yucatan the sun has been obscured by millions of these pests. In Jeffersonville a farmer named Price, while at work on his farm, was stung to death by a swarm that lit on his face and hands. In Western Oklahoma and parts of Texas adjoining several hundred head of horses, mules and cattle have been killed.

In all cases the fly is of the species known as the buffalo gnat. The gnats are described as resembling small flies. They appear in the spring along the river regions and are carried into the country by high north winds.

They have long been known to science as members of the Simulium family. This family comprises but a single genus differentiated into about sixty known species. The particular species to which the buffalo gnat belongs has not yet been baptized by any given name in natural science. Perhaps that is why the king of darkness reigns triumphant within them. To increase this possibility the gnats are popularly known as black flies. They exist in Europe as well as in America. They are small and short. They have no ocelli, the thorax is without any transverse suture, the legs are short, the tibiae are without spurs, and the hind tibiae and first joint of the hind tarsi are dilated.

The larvae live under water and have interesting peculiarities. They are soft skinned and are thinner near the middle. Their head is cylindrical. They have two pairs of eye spots. On the first thoracic segment is a foot protuberance with bristly hooklets. The end of the abdomen has several appendages for attachment. They live in subaquatic plants or on stones, where they form for themselves elongated cocoons, open above. In this upper end the pupae ensconce themselves. From the anterior part of the body, which is naked and free, extend eight or sixteen very long, slender, thread-like breathing tubes. The perfect insect escapes under water and crawls to the surface.

The European species have been taken in hand by scientists and dignified by the name Simulium columbianense. They appear in spring, especially along the region of the Danube, where many hundreds of cattle fall victim to their bites. Whenever they bite they cause burning itching. Soon a painful, hard swelling makes its appearance. It may remain for a week or longer. Many such bites close together produce severe inflammatory fever, and in more susceptible victims cramps. They especially frequent such parts of the body as are not covered by hair, and also the passages of the nostril and the ear.

The buffalo gnat proper are found in greater or less quantities every year in Louisiana, Texas and some of the other Southern states. But, luckily, it is not often that they occur in such incredible quantities as now.

Animals, when attacked by large numbers, grow frantic and seek to evade their tormentors by rolling in the dust, rushing about and whirling round and round. At times they are literally covered with the animated pests. The ears and nostrils are the chief points of attack. The former are filled clear to the tympanum with layer upon layer. An inflammatory fever, with a high pulse, soon sets in. The afflicted cattle soon die of cramps and convulsions. In the dead animals the skin of the entire body will be found covered with numerous minute ulcers.

The buffalo gnat has two great aversions—smoke and darkness. Hence, the best way of driving it off is to place the infected animal in a barn, close all the windows and doors save a single passage of escape, and ignite a slow fire of manure, peat or other material which will give out more smoke than light.—New York Herald.

How Ice Came to a Louisiana Planter.
"Talk about hailstorms," said Colonel Marlin of Lafourche, "the worst hail storm I ever saw occurred in my parish several weeks ago, and without exaggeration the hailstones were the largest on record, at least in the annals of Lafourche parish.

"A peculiar feature of the storm was the fact that upon the Arcadia plantation of Mr. Price the stones were as large as hen's eggs, completely stripping the cane and other growing stuff, breaking the staves upon the sheds and outhouses, and causing severe injuries to a number of the negroes who were in the field. The dropping of the hail sounded like the bombardment of a battery of artillery, and when the storm ceased it was found that nearly eighteen inches of hail had fallen in a particular spot upon the plantation. This was ascertained by a measurement of the deposit in several cane carts which were in the storm. In order to preserve as many of the enormous stones as possible Colonel Will Price had the hands shovel several tons into his cold storage room, and they are still there, although more or less frozen into an almost indistinguishable mass of ice. These statements will be vouched for by any person upon the plantation."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Burglars looted a Broadway, New York, tailoring establishment the other day, and got away with 1089 pairs of trousers.

THE BRIDE DINES OFF THE GROOM.

Queer Facts and Peculiarities About Spiders Not Generally Known.

Margaret Wentworth Leighton has been spending considerable time studying spiders, and the results of her studies are embodied in the article she contributes to the Popular Science Monthly. According to her the spider is deserving of more attention than it receives, especially as it is more skillful than man. This is shown in the fact that the spider's thread is used in the telescope because man has been unable to manufacture one so delicate. As a rule the female spider is much larger and stronger than the male. The husband's place as the weaker vessel is clearly shown by the fact that after the honeymoon, which is always brief, the bride dines off the groom and his career ends. In the case of spiders, the husband literally supports his family.

Spiders differ materially in character, habits, tastes and size. Some prefer to live in houses or cellars, and never seek the sunlight, others live under water all their lives, while others burrow in the earth like moles. Many spiders never leave their webs, but wait for their prey, while others go boldly forth and attack what they may find that will serve for food. The most adventurous spiders construct a sort of balloon from their webs and then sail away through the air, trusting to fate to land them in a desirable spot.

There are many instances of spiders that loved music. One lived for a long time in the room where the boy Beethoven practiced, and it was noticed that when he played his beloved violin the spider knocked off work and did not resume again until the music ceased.

The spinning apparatus by which the spider constructs its web is one of the most delicate instruments ever created. The spinnerets, or spinners, are little organs at the rear end of the body. Each has a number of very minute holes in it and through these holes the silk flows in liquid form, hardening as soon as it meets the air. The strands from several holes unite and form what is called the spider's thread.

The common garden spider, which makes a net of typical shape and sometimes of large size, exercises the utmost care in its construction, and uses two sorts of silk. One is smooth and the other is covered with a sticky substance. In moving about on the web the spider is careful to walk on the smooth silk, where there is no danger of becoming entangled in the snare intended for unwary flies.

About one hundred and fifty years ago a Frenchman, M. Le Bon, made some stockings, purses and gloves of the webs of spiders, and some years ago the Empress of Brazil presented a dress to Queen Victoria, the material of which was woven by the spiders of South America.

Spiders moult several times during their lives, and on each occasion come forth in a garb of a new color. They are greatly affected by the weather, and on the approach of a storm take refuge in a safe spot. They have been known to hide in this way before there were any indications of the approaching storm discernible to man.

Spiders receive a great deal of consideration in India, where so many dumb animals are treated with consideration and even reverence. Children there keep spiders for pets, and it is nothing unusual to see a little tot leading an enormous spider by a string tied around its body. Such pet spiders are fed on worms and insects and they readily accommodate themselves to captivity and take food from the hand.

Answered Conscience's Promptings.

"So strong is the influence wielded by conscience and so frequently does it cause the wrong-doer to atone for his sin, that for the past eighty-five years the Conscience fund has been officially recognized as one of the regular sources of revenue for the United States Government," writes Clifford Howard in the Ladies' Home Journal. "During this time the consciences of the American people have added to Uncle Sam's resources at the rate of about three hundred dollars a month, or a total sum up to the present year of something over \$300,000—the amounts of the individual contributions varying from a few cents to several thousand dollars. The smallest contribution ever made to the Conscience fund was received in May, 1896, and consisted of a two-cent stamp, which was inclosed in the following letter of explanation: 'I enclosed a letter in with a photograph (unsealed), which I have since learned was not lawful. I inclose stamp to make it right.' By a curious coincidence the largest sum every contributed reached the treasury department about the same time that the stamp was received. This was a bill of exchange for \$14,225.15, which had been sent to the secretary of state by the consul-general at London, to whom the money had been given by a clergyman on behalf of a person unknown, no name being given."

A Court of Honor for Duellists.

An attempt is making in Germany to establish a permanent court of honor before which all the challenges among German students are to be heard. A draft of rules to govern this court has been drawn up by the high school of engineering in Berlin and leading universities have endorsed the scheme. The movement has the sympathy of many well-known "fighting men" throughout Germany who believe that a reform of this sort is very badly needed. It is admitted by many duellists that fully 90 per cent. of the challenges among the students at the present time are due to disputes arising when the men are under the influence of liquor.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

SLIMY BED FELLOWS.

A Mother Discovers Two Large Snakes on Her Baby's Body.

Mrs. Alex. Mason, who lives a few miles west of Beaver Falls, on the Duquesne road, took her sleeping 5-month-old baby a few days ago and laid it on a bed on the floor in the sitting room, and after pulling down the blinds to keep the flies out, returned to her work in the kitchen. In about an hour she heard the child making queer noises, and going to the room, discovered two large snakes on the bed with the little one. One of the reptiles was at its feet, the other was partially coiled on the child's breast. The one at the foot wriggled off the bed as soon as it saw Mrs. Mason, but the other showed fight. It raised its ugly broad head, darted out its tongue and hissed viciously. She ran for a poker and when she returned both snakes had disappeared. The child was not injured.

The following Pennsylvania pensions have been granted: Justus E. Brooks, Bradford; George Cronmiller, Pine Grove Mills; David Mims, Franklin; Ahira L. Dummell, Bradford; Sarah C. Bartlett, Mifflin; Reuben Mohony, Ridgway; Peter J. Dennis, Pittsburg; Joseph Hethinger, Boalsburg; William K. Myers, Tyrone; Peter Overmire, Conneautville; Jas. H. Randall, Pittsburg; Samuel A. Keller, Canton; Wm. M. Mulholland, Cookport; Ephraim B. Milligan, Manor station; minors of Samuel McMaster, Latrobe; Fort Palmer and Bradenville; Louisa Stehly, Pittsburg; Sarah E. Bennett, Port Matilda; Elizabeth McDevitt, Port City; Pauline M. Holt, Pittsburg; Elizabeth Randall, Pittsburg; Mary H. Baldwin, Huntingdon; Robert Hare, Allegheny; Abraham Noxon, Meadville; George W. Hoover, Charleroi; Charles Lampus, Allegheny; John Barr, Mary; William Sharp, Plum; James M. Cooper, Williamsburg; Joseph C. Taylor, Murrysville; Abraham Hill, Greendale; George W. Bowen, Big Shanty; William S. Marks, Erie; John C. Gulker, Grampton; Augustus H. Southworth, Meadville; James H. Cameron, Cambridge; James A. Swaney, Punxsutawney; Henry P. McKallip, Meadville; George McQuillike, Kennerdell; George Hartman, Tunnelville; John H. Friday of Philadelphia; James T. Durbin, Hill; Jefferson C. Hill, Durbin; John Kaufman, Altoona; Quincy A. Redd, Shira; James Morse, Piney Creek; Henry H. Coleman, Carlisle; Eleanor H. Schaeffer, Schaeffer; Margaret M. Lewis, Uniontown; Laura H. Hoop, Monaca; Allen E. Bagshaw, Huntingdon; Arthur Gallagher, Allegheny; Jacob Troutman, Pierce; Robert Hall, Orwell; Archibald Boyd, Ohio Pyle; Joseph Rosegrant, Munster; James Klinesmith, Pittsburg; James A. Quigg, W. Bluff; John E. Anderson, Adams; John Beers, Rosebud; Thomas J. Byrne, Erie; Sarah M. Witherow, Banport; Ellen Sharon, St. Augustine.

William Gregory, a prisoner in the Mercer county jail, made a second attempt to end his life Tuesday night of a week, and was again frustrated. He is now awaiting sentence for committing an assault upon Special Detective Albert Rodecker.

The first attempt occurred last Wednesday, when he swallowed a quantity of laudanum. The physicians worked hard over him, and finally brought him around all right. The other day he managed to steal a towel from the wash room of the jail, and tying one end around his neck, he fastened the other to the cell door and tried to hang himself. He was discovered shortly afterwards and cut down.

Two foreigners whose names could not be learned lost their lives near West Point Tuesday. One was seen swimming at Port Royal with a number of companions. He received injuries upon the rocks which stunned him, was deserted by his frightened companions, and when reached by Charles Reed, an old soldier, was beyond resuscitation. The other fell under a Pittsburg, McKeesport and Youghiogheny Railroad freight train at Jacobs Creek, and was frightfully mangled.

Word was received of the death from excessive heat at Celoron of James Russell of Oil City. He was 39 years old.

On June 6 a clothing store in Altoona, known as the New York Clothing Store, and owned by the Friedlander Company of Washington City, was damaged by fire. Appearances point to incendiarism. The stock was insured for \$15,000, but the stock is said to have been worth not more than \$5,000. A few days ago Constable Roe swore out an information charging L. B. Greenburg, local manager of the store; Mayer Bremer, an employee, and Herman Friedlander, of Washington, with having set fire to the store.

Harry Woods, an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad company, and a well-known resident of Altoona, is thought to be dying from injuries received at the hands of William Herr, a prominent contractor. Several days ago Herr quarreled with Woods, and it is alleged that he struck him several times. Woods has not yet recovered from an illness, the blows caused hemorrhages, and he is in a critical condition.

Rev. Father Carroll, one of the best-known priests in the country, was taken suddenly ill Tuesday at Oil City with what is attending a physician term a heart stroke, and his condition is considered extremely critical. He is nearing his 70th year, has been forty years in the priesthood and twenty-seven years pastor of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church here.

Coke production went away up last week; shipments declined. The output of the Connellsville region reached a little more than 111,000 tons, the high water mark in production for many months. The report for the week ending July 3, shows 18,121 tons in the region, 10,792 active and 7,329 idle. With an estimate output of 111,075 tons for the week.

A gasoline stove exploded at York Friday in the kitchen of Joseph Campbell, and four frame dwelling houses and two stables were totally destroyed. The property was owned by Geo. H. Binner, Lewis Robinson and Charles Lehr. The inmates barely escaped with their lives. The loss is about \$8,000.

At Markleysburg, Friday evening, Elizabeth Wynn, aged 14, committed suicide by shooting herself through the head. She was an orphan, and lived with a family named Allman, who recently removed there from Homestead. She was homesick and had once attempted to run away.

Mary, the 13-year-old daughter of Jerry Faunts, living two miles south of Du Bois, was fatally burned. While up a cherry tree some matches and fireworks in her pocket ignited, firing her clothing. She was fifteen feet from the ground, and when she fell by her mother was in a terrible condition, the upper portion of her body being roasted. She died after a few hours of suffering.

Frank Weis, a lad who attended a picnic at Border's grove, Johnstown, was returning to the city on the top of one of the picnic cars when he failed to notice a tunnel and was struck and sustained a concussion of the brain. His condition is serious.

Chinaman to a Box.

If Sam Yick will apply for it, he can easily obtain from the postal authorities a diploma for being the subtlest celestial they have ever had to deal with.

For weeks he robbed the mails at San Francisco, Cal., without detection, for ten months he evaded the active search that was made for him, and finally he had himself boxed up as freight and right under the eyes of customs and postal officials shipped aboard a Chinese steamship and so safely reached the flowery kingdom.

It was early in 1896 that the postal authorities began to suspect Yick of robbing the mails, and Jan. 17 an attempt was made to arrest him. Yick was warned by his friends, however, and escaped. He made his way to the interior of the State somewhere and remained concealed for about ten months. At the end of that time a friend made up his mind to go to China and Yick concluded to go with him. But he was so well known and the postal authorities were so active in the search for him that he did not dare risk any ordinary disguises. Even to attempt to get to San Francisco was attended with danger. In this predicament he had himself boxed up and shipped by rail. He was entered at the custom house for export as freight and put aboard one of the outgoing steamers. When safely out at sea his friend, who was aboard as one of the passengers, helped him to get out of his packing case and he made the rest of the trip in comfort.

But just how his friend managed to see that the box was kept right side up with care while it was being handled in the process of shipment and was not stowed away in the lower part of the hold with tons and tons of freight on top of him is one of the mysteries that have not yet been cleared up. It seems, however, that he did, for word has been received that he arrived safely on the other side, and is now drinking tea and eating birds' nests with rice in Canton in the elegant leisure his stealings afford him.

New Mineral Substance.

Manjak is a new mineral substance found in the Island of Barbadoes, which is used as an intensifier of the illuminating power of coal gas. Its importance to the electrician, however, lies in the fact that it possesses many of the properties of an ideal insulator for electric wires. It is of a black color, and has a high luster and a bright, conchoidal fracture, resembling in appearance newly broken pitch. It is found very near and sometimes upon the surface of the ground in seams varying from one foot to two feet in thickness, running usually at an angle of about forty-five degrees, and in close proximity to rocks. It is supposed to have been formed by the drying up and consolidation of petroleum oil, which is found in abundance in the same localities and is often seen oozing out of the ground or floating down the streams. In composition it is not unlike Trinidad pitch, the Utah "glooinite" and the Mexican "alberit". The analysis of the best quality manjak is stated to be moisture, 2.00; volatile organic matter, 70.85; non-volatile organic matter, 20.07; mineral matter, 0.18.

Artificial Rubies.

Although minute diamonds can be made with the aid of the electric furnace, none large enough to be employed in jewelry have yet been produced. But rubies of large size, and as fine in color and appearance as the best natural gems, have been made. A certain method of detecting artificial rubies is by examination with a microscope. The natural gem is always filled with minute cracks, invisible to the naked eye, but perfectly discernible with a high magnifying power. The artificial ruby has no cracks, but, on the other hand, is filled with minute bubbles, or gas holes.

Lions Affected by Weather.

A peculiarity noticed by the keepers at the Zoo is that bad weather affects lions just as it does human beings. A rainy day will make them limp and listless, and a glimpse of sunshine makes them happy as crickets. Bad weather, however, does not prevent them remembering when meal time is at hand, and they are as restless as young kittens till their food is forthcoming.

When some people smile they seem to say: "When I smile they all love me."

Shake Into Your Shoes

Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder for the feet. It cures painful, swollen, smarting feet, and instantly takes the sting out of corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Ease makes tight-fitting shoes feel easy. It is a certain cure for sweating, callous and hot, itchy feet. Try it to-day. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores. By mail for 25c in stamps. Trial package FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

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Conductor E. D. Loomis, Detroit, Mich., says: "The effect of Hall's Catarrh Cure is wonderful." Write him about it. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. See a bottle.

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"I have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla for scrofula troubles and it has given me relief. I find it drives away that tired feeling and it is just what is needed when the system is run down. I gladly recommend Hood's." CHARLES A. BAKER, Little Utica, New York.

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.
Hood's Pills cure all liver ills. 25 cents.

Will Buy Their Machines of Us.

Three representatives of the Russian government who have been sent to this country to study farming, forestry and cattle raising problems in America are now in Chicago. "It is our intention to abandon the machinery now used by us," said one "and buy our implements exclusively from America."

When a man first appears without his mustache, he has a sort of immediate look, as if he had left some of his clothes off.

Say nothing: It is the only way to avoid being misquoted.

Try Grain-O! Try Grain-O!
Ask your grocer to-day to show you a package of Grain-O, the new food drink that takes the place of coffee. The children may drink it without injury as well as the adult. All who try it like it. Grain-O has that rich, real brown of Mocha or Java, but it is made from pure grains, and the most delicate stomach receives it without distress. One-quarter the price of coffee, 15 cts. and 25 cts. per package. Sold by all grocers.

Piso's Cure is the medicine to break up children's Coughs and Colds.—Mrs. M. G. BLENZ, Sprague, Wash., March 8, 1901.

How Old are You?

You need not answer the question, madam, for in your case age is not counted by years. It will always be true that "a woman is as old as she looks." Nothing sets the seal of age so deeply upon woman's beauty as gray hair. It is natural, therefore, that every woman is anxious to preserve her hair in all its original abundance and beauty; or, that being denied the crowning gift of beautiful hair, she longs to possess it. Nothing is easier than to attain to this gift or to preserve it, if already possessed. Ayer's Hair Vigor restores gray or faded hair to its original color. It does this by simply aiding nature, by supplying the nutrition necessary to health and growth. There is no better preparation for the hair than

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