

MILK FOR MOSQUITOES

When one sees a fish culturist milk a cow and then pour the milk into a pond, being informed meanwhile that the purpose is to raise mosquitoes, questioning the fish culturist's sanity seems to be rather justified.

In the rearing of game fish, however, one of the main difficulties is the supplying of live animal food in the form of creatures of a size that can be eaten by the newly hatched fish fry. In natural ponds where the number of fish is limited, the protozoa, bloodworms, cyclops, and ordinary insect larvae present are sufficient, but in the large scale production of a well conducted fish hatchery, every means of adding to the natural food in the ponds must be considered.

It is only the adult lady mosquitoes that bother our peace of evenings, and the "wiggletail" larva we often note in the rain barrels are exceedingly pleasing to very young fish. In turn, the milk being rich in nitrogen adds to the prosperity of the mosquitoes and great swarms of the wiggletails develop. Just before these larvae are ready to develop wings and come out of the water and annoy us, the fish culturist opens the sluice gates of the ponds where they are bred and allows them to sweep down to other ponds where the hungry fish fry wait.

The fish eat the mosquitoes; the fish culturist ultimately eats the fish,-- and derives energy from them to milk the cow again. As Confucious says, "Thus turns the wheel of life".

THE USE OF "DOG" IN NAMES

There are many words of which "dog" forms a part, as in dogwood, dog-cart, dogfish and others. The origin of "dogwood" has caused much discussion. The most persistent explanation attributes the name to the Celtic language, as having connection with the word "dagger". In this explanation it is stated that the flowering tree was called "dogwood" because its exceedingly hard wood may be sharpened to a fine point. This quality caused it to gain early popularity as material for making skewers for meat, and the resemblance of the butcher's skewer to the better-known dagger or "dag", as the weapon was once known, caused the tree to be called "dagwood". This became changed to "dogwood". Another explanation is that the word was applied to the tree as indicating inferiority, but no lover of dogs will accept this without an argument. The dog-cart takes its name from the circumstance that the two-wheeled carts used by English sportsmen had boxes in the rear for carrying the dogs to be used in the hunt. The dogfish took its name from the fact that the fish of this species of shark hunt in packs, after the fashion of hounds and beagles. An interesting circumstance illustrating this tendency is afforded by a historical incident of 1858, when an enormous shoal of dogfish, covering an area of many square miles, appeared along the north coast of Scotland.

HOW TO FEED FLIES IN CASE YOU LOVE THEM

Are you feeding your house flies properly?

These delicate creatures, so charming and desirable about the home, can't be happy and healthy on just "any old thing" you leave about for them.

In the Journal of Experimental Zoology, R. W. Glaser tells of a series of experiments to discover just what sort of food is suitable for them. The housewife will appreciate the information. The average life of the house fly is only about twenty days.

Deprived of all food they die in one or two days. On an exclusively protein diet they live from one to eight days. Eating only sugar the life period is longer but no eggs are laid--no baby flies to gladden the home.

Mr. Glaser reached the conclusion that the very best food is sugar and some form of starch that can be eaten and assimilated. On such a diet they thrive, live long and lay plenty of eggs.

In general, female flies live longer than males.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

GENERAL CYTOLOGY: A Textbook of Cellular Structure and Function for Students of Biology and Medicine. Edited by E. V. Cowdry. The University of Chicago Press.

Cowdry's name, as editorial sponsor, is enough by itself to guarantee the validity of a work on cytology; but when the baker's dozen of contributors includes also the names of Wilson, Lillie, Conklin, McClung and Morgan, the student might just as well go ahead and buy the book without bothering to read any reviews. And there is no padding in it--no revamping of old cytological stuff; it's all new, based on original studies, each section the work of a specialist noted in his own field. The book is a classic.

UNITED STATES SUPPLIES TREES TO FIGHT LEPROSY IN TROPICS

The United States Department of Agriculture has supplied the governments of Columbia, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Cuba, with large numbers of plants yielding chaulmoogra oil, found useful in treating leprosy. Hawaii, Porto Rico, and the Canal Zone, have also received shipments of the much desired plants and Chaulmoogra trees will soon be fruiting widely in tropical America.

Seed for these plants were obtained in the wilds of Siam and Burma during a series of explorations begun in 1920 by the Department's plant hunter, J. F. Rock. Chaulmoogra oil is now obtained from India where it is pressed cold and imported at great expense, but experts hope that within ten years tropical America will be supplying its own oil for the cure of leprosy.

During a period of fourteen months ended March 15, 1924, 50 per cent. of the leprosy patients at the Kalihi Leprosy Hospital in Hawaii have recovered and been paroled as a result of chaulmoogra oil treatment, and during the past five years 260 patients have been discharged as cured.

The yearly per capita consumption of sugar in the United States has increased from 89 pounds in 1914 to 99 pounds in 1924.
