

The really serious offender, however, as described by Dr. Beyer, is the larva of the southern flannel moth and its northern variety.

Some of the spines of this species are hollow and connected with a poison secreting cell, the toxic effect of which is extremely virulent. Numbness, severe pain and nausea follow, in the wake of an accidental contact with this caterpillar according to Dr. Beyer. There are records of one or two other varieties with similar effects, he says, but fortunately they are comparatively rare.

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#### ANTI-EVOLUTION BILL DEFEATED BY LOUISIANA SENATE

Modern biology may still be taught in the state of Louisiana as a result of the defeat in the Senate on June 23 of the anti-evolution bill that had been approved previously by the lower house of the state legislature.

The vote killing the anti-evolution bill was 19 to 17, while the favorable vote in the house was 52 to 43.

Several anti-evolution bills were introduced into the legislature this session, but the defeated Shattuck bill was the only one reported out by the committee on public education. It is expected therefore that this will end the agitation for laws restricting science teaching in this state for this session at least.

The bill defeated would have made it unlawful to teach that man ascended or descended from a lower form of animal life and would have required the revision of text books. It is similar to the Tennessee enactment being tested by the Scopes case now before the Tennessee Supreme Court. Mississippi, neighbor state of Louisiana, is the only other state that has an anti-evolution law on its statute books.

Anti-evolutionists conducted a lobby for the bill while at a hearing Col. Thomas D. Boyd, president of the Louisiana State University, pointed out the harm that would come to the educational institutions of the state if the bill were passed.

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#### ANCIENT HAWAIIANS ADEQUATELY FED WITHOUT MILK OR GRAIN

Judging from the fine stature of the Hawaiians, it is assumed that their food in prehistoric times must have been of high nutritive value and that it must have constituted in most respects what is now considered an adequate diet, Miss Carey D. Miller, nutrition expert of the University of Hawaii, declared in a paper presented to the Hawaiian Academy of Science.

"While no attempt is made to deny the influence of heredity on the stature and build of a people", Miss Miller said, "students of nutrition, have given convincing proof of the effect of food on the physical well-being, and they can assert that fine stature in a race or unmixed group of people is due to good food over a long period of time while, conversely, poor physical make-up is due to poor food over

many generations.

"The food habits of the Hawaiians when the islands were discovered were probably what they had been for centuries, at least since about 1100 A.D., and, probably from 600 A.D. to the time of the great migration -- or perhaps even since soon after 1 A.D. or thereabouts which is considered to be somewhere near the year of the arrival of the first inhabitants.

"The Hawaiians ate 138 kinds of edible fish", Miss Miller said, "31 fowls, breadfruit, ferns, bananas, yams, taro, poi, pandanus, and various types of seaweeds. Their diet differed from that of other fine races in that they had no milk, no cod liver oil, and no whole grains."

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#### HITTITES AMONG FIRST USERS OF IRON

The peoples of the near East were among the earliest manufacturers of iron, according to Dr. J. Newton Friend in an address before the members of the Royal Institution.

In 1300 B.C. the Hittites were using iron weapons in their numerous wars and among the treasures of early history preserved to posterity is a letter thought to have been addressed to Rameses II of Egypt from the Hittite king, saying that he is sending with the communication an iron dagger.

The Romans were skilled metallurgists with considerable knowledge of how to handle iron ores. Virgil's Aeneid written around 40 B. C. contains an account of a smithy in full blast, and Pliny in his Natural History, which was brought out in 77 A.D., shows an equal familiarity with the working of the metal. An iron ring recently unearthed from a Roman site was evidently made by soldering together the ends of a bent strip of iron with some sort of copper alloy.

Cast iron, said Dr. Friend, was first known in Sussex in 1350 and soon became fairly common.

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#### ETHYLENE GAS USED TO RIPEN FRUITS

Ethylene gas which has seen recent favor in medical circles as an anesthetic has found quite a different use in the artificial ripening of green fruits and vegetables.

Experiments undertaken at the Agricultural College of the University of Minnesota in cooperation with two wholesale fruit houses demonstrated that green bananas and tomatoes exposed to small proportions of ethylene gas ripened in a shorter time and with much smaller loss than in the usual course of commercial ripening. The flavor was found to be a considerable improvement over that customarily found in fruits ripened off the tree or vine. This is ascribed by Dr. R. B. Harvey to the