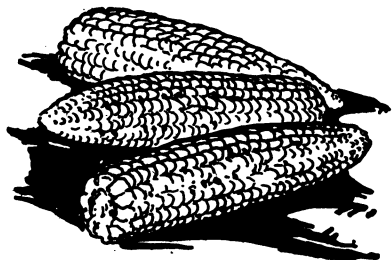


GENETICS
NATURE RAMBLINGS
by Frank Thome



Genii of the Genes

GENII, formidable in aspect but benevolent in purpose, used to appear before startled youths. Proclaiming themselves Slaves of the Lamp or of the Ring, they would procure by magic means all imaginable riches and benefits for their still-bewildered protégés.

To amused Western ears, it has always seemed a bit odd that such portentous powers should have been on tap for the mere touching or turning of such trivial objects as a lamp or a ring. Yet we have among us many mortals like ourselves, but powered beyond the rest of us, who respond to touchstones that at first blush would seem to be of no great intrinsic consequence.

Such men might in all seriousness proclaim themselves Servants of the Sheep, or Genii of Grass. There are hundreds of them, in the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, and in State Experiment Stations all over the country. They are breeders, geneticists, brainsons of Mendel, each with some one plant or animal which he makes his particular ward. One will have poultry, another pigs, one cotton, another celery.

It may seem odd that grown men should concern themselves so earnestly with what journalists have called (by now a little too often, perhaps) the "love life" of ducks and raspberries; but a peep into the 1937 Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, just out, will show justification—often dramatically. Thus one man, by producing one tomato variety resistant to one disease, saved whole Florida communities from ruin. Another, with cabbage, rendered a like service in Wisconsin. And so on.

Secretary Wallace, himself a geneticist, has subtitled the book, "A Survey of Superior Germ Plasm."

Science News Letter, July 10, 1937

Which CAMERA Should You Buy ?

Can you get as good pictures with a \$10 camera as you can with a \$50 one?

Should you buy a miniature camera or a large one? Which is better—the Contax or the Leica?

THE first of two reports on cameras, appearing in the June issue of *Consumers Union Reports*, will help you to answer such questions as these. Non-miniature cameras, including both American and foreign makes, are covered in this report. The second report, which will appear in the July issue, will cover miniature cameras.

As in reports on other products, comparisons of the quality and value of outstanding makes (including Kodak, Agfa, Leica, Contax, and Graflex) will be given, and the Best Buys of each type and in each price range indicated by name. Read these reports before deciding which camera to buy. They will give you the guidance of experts in the selection of a camera. They can save you money and help you get better pictures.

House Dresses—Radio Tubes—Flashlights—Sanitary Napkins

Other reports in the June issue give you the results of tests made on competing brands of house dresses, radio tubes, flashlights, sanitary napkins, shoe whiteners, and canned peaches and canned tomatoes—with ratings, in terms of brand names, as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable."

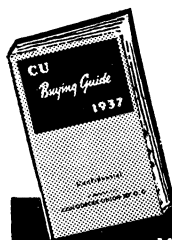
IN THE JULY ISSUE—Ratings of the 1937 Refrigerators

A \$3 Investment Which Can Save You \$50 to \$300

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I agree to keep confidential all material sent to me which is so designated.

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