



The Trail of the Bee

HONEY is a mouth-watering word all over the world. Save for Eskimos and Tunguses and a few other remote tribes in forsaken regions so luckless as to be without bees, all human beings know it—and think of only one word in connection with it: “More, please!” And plenty of our sub-human animal kindred, from bears to flies, are no less fond of it than we ourselves.

Honey is commonly classified according to the flowers from which the bees have taken nectar, its raw material. White clover honey has become the staple and standard over practically the whole of the United States, and for most of Europe as well. Along with it, and closely resembling it, are the honeys derived from sweet clover and alfalfa.

But honey gourmets from various sections set up local favorite varieties as superior to the clover product. Usually such preferences are based on a fragrance or flavor of regionally dominant nectar plants, from which the honey derives a distinctive aroma or bouquet, no

less characteristic than the bouquets of wines that enable connoisseurs to exalt the Moselle valley, or the hills of Burgundy, or the islands of the Aegean, according to their several preferences.

No one who has ever tasted the orange-blossom honey of Florida is likely to forget it. Yet from the opposite corner of the country may come a claim that it is not to be compared with the apple-blossom honey of the Pacific Northwest. Californians have their orange-blossom sweet, too, but must divide their allegiance between this and the rich honey from the white sage and ceanothus of their foothills.

In the Ohio valley and the Southeast as well as over a considerable part of

the Middle Atlantic region, three forest trees yield a considerable part of the honey crop: linden or basswood, tulip poplar, and black locust. These honeys all have their devoted followers among the sweet-toothed population.

But those who have, with dripping tongues, followed the Trail of the Bee over the whole American map, sipping from her many combs as she sips from many flowers, would probably cast a majority vote in favor of a honey known in the Southern Appalachians and apparently not elsewhere: sourwood honey. He who has known the nectar of that unpromisingly named tree knows he has tasted perfection. For his tongue there are no more worlds to conquer.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1938

PSYCHIATRY

Fits May Replace Sedatives In Quieting Mental Patients

GIVING an excited patient a fit to quiet him instead of a sedative is the newest thing in treatment of the mentally ill.

Success with the seemingly contradictory treatment is reported by Dr. Louis H. Cohen, of the research service of the Worcester State Hospital (*American Journal of Psychiatry*, September)

The strange new procedure is an outgrowth of insulin and metrazol shock treatment of one widespread mental ail, schizophrenia. Dr. Cohen gives metrazol to induce a fit, or convulsion to use the polite term, in excited patients. These are the patients who are over-active, over-talkative, obscene and destructive. Sedatives, packs, continuous baths and even occasional restraint are necessary

to protect both themselves, other patients, attendants and hospital property.

Small doses of metrazol were injected daily into 42 such patients. Forty of them were schizophrenics and two were chronic maniacs. Some had been in the hospital as long as 22 years.

Marked change for the better took place in nearly all the patients. Sedatives are practically unnecessary. About half the group are now doing productive work and three have returned home ready for outside social adjustment. Another 16 have been transferred to the “quiet” wards. The changes do not seem merely a lessening of activity but a re-direction of available energy into more productive and desirable forms.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1938

PHARMACY

Standards Bureau Issues Disinfectant Standards

FIVE pamphlets which rate several types of household disinfectants and spray-type insecticides have been published by the National Bureau of Standards.

Meant to serve as a description of specifications to be followed by manufacturers on a voluntary basis and for the guidance of consumers, the pamphlets describe liquid hypochlorite, pine oil, coal tar and cresylic disinfectants and the spray-type insecticides.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1938

This Handy Coupon

IS FOR NEW OR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

To Science News Letter, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Please start renew my subscription to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for 1 year, \$5 2 years, \$7

Name _____

Street _____

Address _____

City and _____

State _____