

Lady's Slipper

► "CAPRICIOUS BEAUTY" is the meaning assigned to the lady's slipper in the sentimental language of flowers set forth in an old-fashioned "Flora's Lexicon" of three generations ago.

The beauty has a proper right to be capricious if she chooses, for the lady to whom the slipper classically belongs is the Lady Venus herself. *Cypripedium* is the name in the botany books; the last half, pedium, means a slipper and Cypris is one of the names of the most famous heart-wrecker on Olympus.

Our native lady's slipper species have a right to hold up their heads on another count also, for they are a near relative of the gorgeous exotic orchids, demanded as tribute by present-day capricious beauties, and though less bizarre in shape, they are not at all behind their tropical cousins in delicacy and beauty of coloring. The most common species is a beautiful clear pink, with occasional albino specimens that are pure white, but there is also a species that is fairly frequently found, with the slipper part a bright yellow and the twisted "strings" in yellowish brown.

The beauty of the lady's slipper has been appreciated not wisely and far too well by persons who have not been content to

visit it in its native woods and bog-lands and let it alone there to raise its succeeding, slow-growing generation. They have ripped it up by the roots in great clumps, or even worse and more idly, have given blood-money to men who murder beautiful things for pay.

The flowers invariably avenge this ravishment by dying very quickly in the alien soil where they are set, with the consequence that in the more accessible lands around the cities at least, the lady's slipper is becoming more and more of a rarity. Our grandchildren, perhaps even we ourselves in our old age, will have to make pilgrimages to hidden fastnesses of swamp or mountain to see this capricious beauty, the lady's slipper.

Science News Letter, April 14, 1951

MEDICINE

Inhaling Oxygen Relieves Symptoms of Airsickness

► AIRSICKNESS in some cases may come from being oversensitive to mild anoxia, or oxygen want. This suggestion appears in the JOURNAL of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (April 7) in answer to a query from a physician.

If this is the case, nausea and vomiting might be warded off entirely, or a second attack prevented, by asking the stewardess to give oxygen for 10 minutes every half hour during the flight. Or if the mask is not uncomfortable, oxygen might be taken during the entire flight.

Dramamine has proved helpful to large numbers who suffer from motion sickness on planes, ships and trains. The medical journal's query came from a physician who was not helped by this drug and who was chiefly bothered by the after-effects of airsickness. These consisted in general malaise, chilliness, lack of interest and inability to concentrate and even some weight loss. The symptoms lasted three or four days.

Measures that have been effective in combating these after-effects include: inhalation of 100% oxygen for 10 minutes immediately on landing, after an episode of motion sickness, a full meal to be eaten as soon after the flight as possible, amphetamine sulfate during the 12-hour period following the flight, large doses of vitamin B complex during the 24-hour period following a bout of motion sickness.

Other helpful measures suggested in the medical journal include: "getting aboard after a good rest or night's sleep, seating oneself amidship between the wings, with the seat tilted back in the semirecumbent position and either closing or fixing the eyes on an object within the plane and not permitting them to follow and roll with the horizon, and elimination of any alcoholic beverages or dietary excesses prior to plane departure or during the flight. Throughout the flight fluids and foods should be taken only in small amounts."

Science News Letter, April 14, 1951

TECHNOLOGY

Processed Tallow Can Replace Palm Oil

► TIN PLATE producers, following up the research efforts of scientists from Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology, may pull palm oil off the production line and send in a new substitute—specially processed tallow.

The switch, now that successful mill tests have been concluded, should bring smiles of relief to meat packers and Uncle Sam's armed forces as well as members of the steel industry, who visualize a possible saving of between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 a year at current market prices.

It will aid in maintaining a supply of tin can containers for the armed forces. Meat packers will have a new use for their over-abundance of tallow. The steel industry will have a cheaper, readily-accessible substitute oil for their hot dip tinning operations.

Palm oil, imported from the East Indies and North Africa, has constantly troubled the steel industry.

Costs are high and unstable. And in time of war, enemy action against shipping could cut off long supply lines. Some 7,000 tons of palm oil are used annually for hot dip tinning in the U. S. Numerous substitutes for hot dip tinning have been tried. Several patents have been issued. But up till now the industry has largely continued to use palm oil.

The American Iron and Steel Institute brought the problem to Armour Research Foundation. William R. Johnson, research metallurgist, and George G. Ference, research chemist, were assigned to discover and develop a substitute for the palm oil used in hot dip tinning. It finally was decided that tallow, cheap and available in quantity from U. S. meat packing plants, would be an ideal substance for a substitute tinning oil. Commercial fat processors prepared a special tallow. This was tested, modified, tested again. In a full scale mill test at a major steel plant, hot dip tinplate was produced on a regular production line for more than a month.

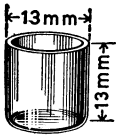
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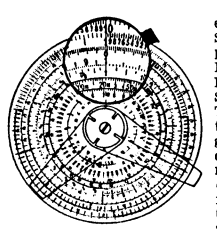
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