

Films of The Week

The following are new French films on science and medicine available on free loan from the Society for French American Cultural Services and Educational Aid, 972 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10012. The intended audiences for the films will have to be assumed from the film title and content, since no information was provided. All films have English language sound tracks.

THE FOURIER TRANSFORM AND ITS APPLICATIONS IN PHYSICS. S-225E. 16mm, color, sound, 23 min. Investigates the effects of the lengths of wave trains on the width of a spectrum emitted by a source. Acoustic and optical studies. Spectroscopy by means of the Fourier transform. Formation of images in optical instruments. Application to crystallography.

INDUSTRIAL ELECTROLYSIS: SINGLE POLE VERTICAL ELECTRODE ELECTROLYZERS. S-232E. 16mm, color, sound, 22 min. Aimed at persons who already have some knowledge of the mechanisms of chemical and electrochemical reactions. Tours four large industrial electrolysis plants, showing their similarities and differences: zinc manufacture, electrolytic copper refining, chlorine and sodium manufacture by the membrane process and fluorine production.

THE LANGUEDOC SCORPION. S-238E. 16mm, color, sound, 25 min. Habitat, hole digging, feeding, mating, reproduction.

LIVING JEWELS. S-226E. 16mm, color, sound, 25 min. Some of the most beautiful insects in France. Coleoptera (carabus beetles, etc.), Lepidoptera (eggs, caterpillars, pupas), fast-motion hatching (zygaena), slow-motion flight (papilio, hawkmoth, etc.), parasitic and predatory insects.

O₂ CO₂. S-233E. 16 mm, color, sound, 18 min. Anatomy and physiology of the breathing apparatus. Examples of functional anomalies and appropriate treatment. Examination of the muscular control of breathing and diaphragm dynamics demonstrated by a yogi. Observation of some frequent deformations and re-education exercises. Breath control of athlete.

POLYHEDRAL VIRUS DISEASES IN INSECTS. S-216E. 16mm, color, sound, 21 min. Pathological study of various viral diseases of lepidoptera (tissue culture, electron microscopy). Damage, contamination means. Vectors.



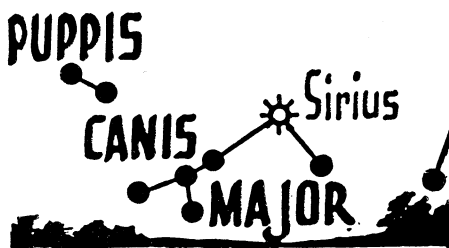
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Nature Note

Dog Days



Dog days are days of extremely hot, humid, sultry weather, traditionally occurring in the Northern Hemisphere for four to six weeks in July and August.

This hot period gets its name from the bluish-white star Sirius, brightest visible star in the sky and called the dog star of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog. At this time of year, Sirius rises in the east about the same time as the sun. Ancient Egyptians believed the brilliant star added its "heat" to the heat of the sun beating down on earth. Sirius was blamed for withering droughts, mid-summer sickness, discomfort and even death.

Although Sirius contributes no heat to the parched earth, dog days are well known for their heat and humidity. At this time of year, the sun has already reached its highest point over the Northern Hemisphere and is starting back again toward the equator. The great continents have been well warmed, and oceans have lost their winter chill. The rays of the sun beat directly down on the temperate zone, drawing up moisture from oceans, streams, rivers and ponds at the rate of some 16 million tons a second. This moisture is retained as water vapor in the warm atmosphere, creating uncomfortable, muggy weather.

The superstition that dogs become mad during dog days is unfounded; medical reports indicate that more cases of rabies occur in spring and autumn than in summer.

Dog days traditionally begin on July 3, about 20 days before the simultaneous rising of the sun and Sirius. They end August 11, about 20 days after.

Advice to people suffering during dog days was offered centuries ago by the Greek poet Hesoid: "When Sirius parches head and knees, and the body is dried up by reason of the heat, then sit in the shade and drink."

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