

A Science Fair in Connecticut

► About a million science students in America are showing their projects in school fairs with the coming of spring. Because this account of one of the some 15,000 school fairs captures the spirit of youthful science, we reprint excerpts with appreciation from the Sherman (Conn.) Sentinel (April 6).

► Two comments might be said to typify the Science Fair held at the Sherman School, Sherman, Conn. Both, mind you, to be said in what might be called a pleased bemusement: "Isn't this wonderful!" And, "The things they teach kids nowadays! I don't understand a lot of it myself."

Think of these, or variants, said by perhaps up to 200 visitors, and you get an idea.

The fair is the annual showpiece of the general science course presented to the four upper grades under the teaching and direction of John Halloran. And this year's fair, by all accounts, was the biggest and best ever to be presented. Fifty-four exhibits representing project work by 70 pupils (some of the exhibits were products of two-pupil teams) comfortably filled the gymnasium. And the range of subject matter shown, represented almost every branch of science: astronomy, biology, physics, botany to name a few—as well as their branches: aerodynamics, medicine, natural history, electricity, mechanical engineering, and so on and so on.

Each exhibitor or team had a booth, or three-sided display niche set up on long lines of tables. Some were simple demonstrations of scientific principles like magnetism, with the fields graphically illustrated by iron filings sprinkled on glass over magnets. Others were diorama-like models, with explanatory titles and notes, demonstrating, for instance, the life and habits of beavers. Still others illustrated laboratory procedures, with elaborate chart and equipment set-ups. And some were even as esoteric as one entitled the "Appendix" (with surgical examples, complete).

• Science News, 89:301 April 23, 1966

YOUR SKIN AND ITS CARE

By H. T. Behrman, M.D., and O. L. Levin, M.D. Two dermatologists give you the up-to-date scientific facts. They tell you in detail exactly what to do to beautify and improve your skin, how to avoid or correct skin disorders, and how to deal with many skin problems as: Daily care of the face • allergies • cosmetics • pimples • blackheads • acne • whiteheads • cysts • boils • oily skin • dry skin • chapping • poison ivy • cold sores • hives • superfluous hair • ringworm • moles • birthmarks • scars • warts • tumors • skin cancer • excessive sweating • etc., etc. "Accurate unvarnished story of practical skin care."—Connecticut State Medical Journal. Price \$3.95 Postfree • 10-day Money-Back-Guarantee EMERSON BOOKS, Inc., Dept. 860-P 251 W. 19th St. N.Y. 10011

Nature Note

Curious Tree Hoppers

► SOME OF THE MOST curiously shaped insects are the tree hoppers, hobgoblins of the insect world.

Always tiny, not more than half an inch long, these hoppers have curious distortions of the prothorax—that part of the insect's body lying between its wings and head. Sometimes this part rises to a point like a thorn, and sometimes it is in the shape of two spines. Sometimes it looks like a shield or a crag. In the New World tropics, the weird shapes make you think evolution has gone wild. One insect has two delicate horns of a crescent rising two or three times the height of the creature itself. Sometimes these horns meet, forming a closed circular arch.

Another insect walks around with a curved arch over his head, at the tip of which dangle three tiny perfect balls—all part of the insect's body.

Tree hoppers come in almost every color, sometimes with stripes of bright red or green, or spots of blue and other colors. Most of the North American species come in various shades of green or brown.

These little fast-stepping creatures jump vigorously when disturbed, dodging to the other side of the twig or stem, then peeking around to see what danger approaches.

Tree hoppers belong to a relatively large family that thrives throughout the world, containing many thousands of species. The name of the family is Membracidae, of the Heteroptera order. They are all vegetarians, and feed on plant juices, but are not abundant enough to be serious pests to farmers. Many of them are very sociable, feeding together on a twig or branch like a flock of tiny sheep.

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ENTOMOLOGY

Bark Beetles Tempted By Pungent Chemicals

► IN SPRING, the pungent odor of a newly cut Douglas fir tree can bring a beetle out of its spring flight pattern within a matter of minutes.

As soon as a tree is cut or blown down, its oil and resin begin to exude volatile odors. Each chemical from these oils has different powers of attraction to different beetles. For instance, the Douglas fir beetle is attracted to substances such as alpha-pinene, limonene and camphene, reported Julius A. Rudinsky of Oregon State University, Corvallis.

In a series of experiments with various concentrations of terpene hydrocarbons, Dr. Rudinsky reported in Science 152:218, 1966, that twice as many female beetles as males responded.

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New Microfilm Journal First in Medicine, Law

► AN INTERNATIONAL Microfilm Journal of Legal Medicine has been recorded on four-by-six-inch microfilm cards. Each card contains 98 pages of text and the entire 869-page journal can be read from 10 cards.

The condensation of material was intended principally for specialists and teachers in legal or forensic medicine, forensic pathologists, medical examiners, attorneys, medical and legal librarians and other institutions and individuals interested in legal medicine. The journal is believed to be the first of its kind in medicine or law in the United States, although there may be one or two similar publications in other scientific disciplines.

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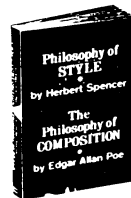
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