



Death and Resurrection

► CHRISTENDOM, during the coming week, commemorates the age-old drama of the death and resurrection of its central figure. Even the least devout, perhaps unknowingly, make use of the traditional symbols of death and resurrection—the seemingly lifeless egg out of which comes new life, the rabbit that springs vigorously out of a hole that might have been taken for a grave, the flowers that emerge from apparently dead seeds and bulbs. Some of these symbols are older than the creed with which they have become associated; even the heathen could not bear the thought of death being the end, and sought cheer and hope in these vernal reassertions of life.

But there is a deeper and more widespread symbolism—as universal as death and life—that no religion, old or new, seems to take much account of. That is the endless cycle of death and resurrection that we see wherever things are growing. As summer approaches, we regret the death of the lovely early flowers; as autumn passes, we lament the fading and falling of the leaves. They lie in the common tomb of the earth, and decay has its way with them.

Yet if death and decay did not occur, there would soon be no more life on the earth. Growth would go on for a few seasons, but presently all the food-making (and hence life-making) elements in air and earth would have been extracted by the plants and locked up in their tissues. If they got no leave to die, the last generation of plants would have to stand forever, cursed with sterility, living but not growing because the last means of growth was already locked in their miser clutches. A world without death would be a world too monstrous to contemplate.

Because there is death in our normal world, and decay afterwards, life con-

tinues to be possible. Dead flowers and leaves, and dead tree trunks and animal bodies, all fulfill their destiny and return to the dust from whence they came. In doing so, they endow the very dust with the potentialities of life, for from the decay of dead things comes the humus that makes a soil fit for the support of living things. Into the earth blessed with the products of death we thrust our seed, and “look for the life that is to come.”

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BACTERIOLOGY

Germ of Two Types Kill Japanese Beetles

► JAPANESE beetles can be killed by either of two different types of milky-disease germ, but not by both at the same time—if that's any consolation to a doomed beetle. This discovery was made by Dr. R. L. Beard, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Conn. (*Science*, March 22)

In experimental inoculations, Dr. Beard found that if the germs of Type A and Type B of the milky disease are injected into the same beetle, a few days apart, the insect will eventually die of the type it receives first. If both kinds are injected simultaneously but in unequal quantities, death will be caused by the one given in the heavier dose. The two strains thus appear to be competitors.

One practical significance of this discovery might be that it is important to keep pure strains of milky-disease cultures when preparing to fight beetle infestation with this disease, as is widely done nowadays. If the two are mixed, their mutual antagonism might render the attack on the beetles less effective.

Dr. Beard states that it has not yet been learned whether these two strains have an antibiotic effect on each other, or whether some other mechanism is involved.

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ENGINEERING

Nazi Wind Tunnel Now At Ordnance Laboratory

► THE SUPERSONIC wind tunnel used by the Nazis in all their experiments leading to the development of the V-2 rocket bombs is now peacefully reposing at the U. S. Navy Ordnance Laboratory in Washington, D. C.

Originally part of the Germans' experimental station at Peenemunde, the tunnel was removed to Kochel, in Bavaria south of Munich, late in the war

to protect it from Allied bomb attacks. It was discovered there by American troops late in the war.

Calling the tunnel “a rare prize,” U. S. Navy experts say that it was used at the Peenemunde station for all the experimental work on V-2.

Included in the cache are models of shells, grenades and rockets that were tested for air pressures in the supersonic tunnel. Also captured were the Schlieren mirrors used to photograph the air flow about the supersonic projectiles.

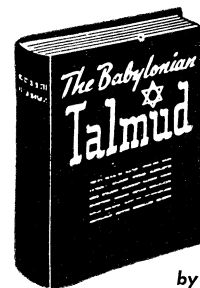
The Nazis had a bank of 120 manometers for measuring pressures in the wind tunnel. Most unique feature of the captured wind tunnel is its large, quick-opening valve.

When the valve is opened, air passes through an opening 27½ inches in diameter. Opening this large passage in about one second is considered to be a remarkable achievement by the American scientists who have studied the captured equipment.

Installed at Peenemunde, the Germans had a 1,100 horsepower pump that allowed the 40-foot vacuum sphere to be evacuated in five minutes.

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