



Anemone

► "WINDFLOWER," the anemone has been called, and it is a really appropriate name.

For all the species of this genus do not mind being pulled at by the breeze and some of them grow boldly on the open hillsides of the prairies, where the skies of April and May are more often open-windowed than not. Whoever has seen a mass of these flowers, blue or white, tossing in the wind, will grant that they have been very well named.

It is frequently stated that the name anemone is a corruption of the Greek pneumos, meaning breath or wind, but this is not the case. According to Gray's Manual, the standard botanical authority, it is an

attempt at the Latinization of Na'man, which is the Semitic name for Adonis.

Adonis was a mortal youth who died tragically because of his love for the goddess Venus, and from his blood the crimson-splashed anemone of the Orient is said to have sprung.

Anemones are widely scattered, all around the world, but mostly in the lands where the wind blows free. Our most abundant species is a foot- or two-foot high, rough-leaved, white-flowered plant that grows in great masses in moist soil. It is frequently found forming long swathes along the foot of a railroad right-of-way.

Then there is a smaller, more delicate, enamel-blue-flowered anemone, that grows in the woods and is in bloom in May.

A third, one of the oddest of all anemones, has gained the nickname of "old man's whiskers" because of the long, silky mass of hairs that surrounds the ripening fruits after the flower has faded.

Although anemones are the wind-flowers of the woods and mountains, the sea also has its anemones. They are just as beautiful as the land flowers, but they are animals, not plants, and they are found along the edge of the ocean in all parts of the world.

If you look carefully in cool, shaded places where the water rarely leaves, you will have no difficulty finding anemones along the coasts of this country. The animal is little more than sea water itself, yet when fully expanded, with a high column and crown of tentacles, it is a lovely spectacle.

As anemones sway in the wind, so the "flowers of the sea" sway with the water currents of the ocean.

Science News Letter, March 22, 1952

## PSYCHIATRY

## Pre-Delinquency Danger Signs Listed by Psychiatrist

► IS YOUR son or daughter bored, moody, inattentive, overactive or excitable? Does he lie flagrantly? Is he failing in school?

If so, ask for expert advice right away.

These are the danger signs pointing to later juvenile delinquency. The pre-delinquency list is provided by Dr. Robert V. Seliger, psychiatrist of the Neuropsychiatric Clinic, Baltimore, Md., in a report prepared for the National Committee on Alcohol Hygiene on "Delinquency in America." If your child has any home or school problem, he advises, take him at once to a community mental hygiene, school or hospital clinic.

Young people often embark on an "adventure in crime" as an antidote to loneliness, insecurity and unhappiness, Dr. Seliger said.

"Many cases of juvenile delinquency come from cultured homes of supposedly high standing," he said, "although careful study of these homes reveals a poor emotional climate, in which one finds bickering, contention and fussing of the parents, or a jealous, or indifferent, or belittling parent-to-parent relationship.

"In the history of delinquents we find a high percentage of parental difficulties, divorce, separation, broken homes, dependency and various types of emotional problems and illnesses. These difficulties may be partly due to poor economic conditions."

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## PLANT PATHOLOGY

## Aid Fight Against Insects

► THE VIRUSES, the bacteria and the fungi, organisms that produce disease, may eventually prove to be among the farmer's best allies in his fight against insect pests.

Curtis P. Clausen, chairman of the division of biological control of the University of California Experiment Station in Riverside, points out that we are now at the same stage with viruses, bacteria and fungi as we were with insect parasites and predators 40 years ago.

There have been only two instances of successful utilization of micro-organisms in field control of insect pests.

The milky disease of Japanese beetle grubs, caused by bacteria, is now widely used in eastern states to control the pest. Spore dusts applied to the soil in infested areas result consistently in reduction of grubs within a year to numbers below the injury level. The second example is field control of alfalfa caterpillar. Under direction of Edward A. Steinhaus, associate insect pathologist of the University of California at

Berkeley, applications of a virus and a parasitic bacterium both have brought the caterpillars quickly under control.

Science News Letter, March 22, 1952

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Edited by Colonel F. R. W. Hunt

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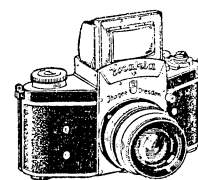
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