



ALL-WEATHER ONION SPRAY—A new spray program, combining fungicides and insecticides, is saving onion crops on 15,000 acres in New York. The program, developed at Cornell University Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y., costs about \$1.50 an acre for each weekly application.

ENTOMOLOGY

Maggot Is Jekyll-Hyde

► EVERY FAT, wormlike maggot is a Jekyll-and-Hyde, actually two individuals within a single body.

Maggots are juvenile, or larval, stages of flies, hatching from fly eggs, yet they do not grow up to become flies. When the time comes for the change from maggot to adult fly, nearly all the body tissues of the larva go into a state of dissolution, and the fly is newly created from undifferentiated cells carried about within the maggot.

The dissolved maggot tissues are used to nourish the developing organs of the fly.

This was reported by Dr. R. E. Snodgrass, entomologist and collaborator with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in a review of scientific knowledge of fly metamorphosis.

This dual development is most accentuated in a special group of flies, the *Cyclorhapha*, that include the hump-back flies, flat-foot flies, big-eyed and syrphus flies.

The maggot of these flies, he said, has diverged so far from the evolutionary course which produced the adult that it has become an independent creature in no way structurally related to its parents.

When the larva has completed its destiny, it gives way to the developing undifferentiated cells that then produce the fly, bringing death for the "Jekyll" but life to the "Hyde."

Dr. Snodgrass gave this summary in a paper, "The Metamorphosis of a Fly's Head," Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections (Vol. 122, No. 3).

Science News Letter, July 11, 1953

MEDICINE

Tattoo Camouflages Ugly Birthmarks

► SATISFACTORY RESULTS with tattooing to camouflage port wine birthmarks of face and neck have been obtained in 83% of patients, Dr. Herbert Conway of New York reports in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (June 20).

Science News Letter, July 11, 1953

ICHTHYOLOGY

13 Fish at Once Dragged From Surf

► WITH SPOTLESS conscience and the backing of the California Academy of Sciences, Charles D. Podesta can tell his grandchildren how he made one jump in the California surf and dragged ashore 13 fish with his bare hands.

Returning from salmon fishing off Halfmoon Bay, Mr. Podesta saw a queer fish with a fin like a sailfish's thrashing in the surf by Princeton pier near San Francisco. He rushed into the water, grabbed the fish by its tail, and after a rough battle, beached the prize, a slim, 53-inch fish with a mouthful of wicked teeth.

He took the fabulous catch to the California Academy, where it was identified as a lancetfish, *Alepisaurus borealis*. The ichthyologists, however, did not rest at that.

They sliced open the specimen to discover a 20-inch hake in its capacious interior. Then probing into the hake, they found 10 sanddabs and one curlfin turbot in its abdomen.

Count them up. Thirteen fish at once!
Science News Letter, July 11, 1953



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"Since I am crowding threescore my objective in taking the N.I.A. Course was not to become a professional writer. However, while still taking the course, I sent an article to *St. Joseph Magazine*. It was immediately accepted. 'Our Navy' accepted others. All thanks to N.I.A."—Albert M. Hinman, 1937 East Silver Street, Tucson, Arizona.

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