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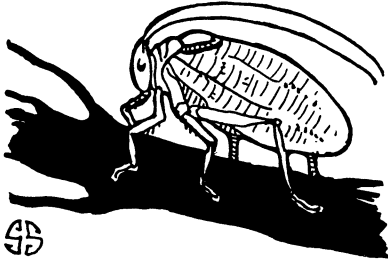
 NATURE RAMBLINGS
 

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By FRANK THONE

*Katy Did*

Or did she? The most ancient argument in the world is being carried on in a million trees by ten million green-robed barristers, who have either had the case in court for so long that they have forgotten what it is about, or else regard Katy's alleged conduct as being of unmentionable enormity. At any rate, the prosecution shouts stridently all night long that Katy did, Katy did, she did, she did; while the defense maintains as stoutly and as repetitiously that Katy didn't. And the weary and disgusted human jury, knowing nothing about the case, drowsily curse Katy and wish that the lawyers would shut up.

But these green nocturnal grasshoppers have other business besides their eternal argument. There is the important matter of producing eggs, for instance. Nothing could be more nice and fastidious than the family arrangements that one of the southern katydid species makes. The maternal insect moves up a twig or the edge of a leaf, leaving a trail of pearly little oval eggs strung out in a curious double overlapping row. These split finally and out crawl the rising generation, very small and spectral-pale. They do not assume their robust greenness until after shedding their coats about half a dozen times.

There is another southern Katydid so large as to repay hunting with firearms. An ardent young collector, who had served in the war and knew something about night operations, fixed a small searchlight on his cap, to illuminate his prey in the tall trees. His artillery consisted of a small rifle loaded with dust-shot cartridges, to stun the giant insects and knock them off their perches.

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Thomas Jefferson invented the first plow to turn over the soil as well as lift it.

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 Psychiatrists Not Ready for Crime Study
 

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Psychiatry

If President Hoover's National Commission on Law Observance and Law Enforcement were to turn the whole problem of dealing with convicted criminals over to the psychiatrists, the psychiatrists would find themselves unable to offer an immediate solution to the problem.

"I, for one," said Dr. Nolan D. C. Lewis, of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a U. S. Government Hospital for the Insane, "would not wish to attempt it."

Not that Dr. Lewis believes crime outside the field of psychiatry. Quite the contrary. He says:

"Every man who commits a serious crime against either person or property is abnormal. No person who has been brought up with any knowledge of the law, and with ordinary training as to right and wrong will break into a house and rob or make a murderous attack upon another unless that person is in an abnormal state."

The principal contribution which the psychiatrist can make toward solving the problem of reduction of crime is to offer a new point of view.

"When you have studied a problem until it appears to present an impassable barrier," he said, "a fresh point of view will enable you to attack the difficulty with new weapons

and may lead in the end to the removal of the obstacle."

The psychiatrist would treat crime as a disease. He would give it the same systematic and thorough research that has been devoted to such diseases as cancer and tuberculosis. He would treat the criminal as enlightened communities treat those suffering from contagious or infectious diseases.

"Society has a perfect right to protect itself from these individuals even at the expense of the person afflicted," Dr. Lewis explained, "but imprisonment should be employed only as a matter of precaution, protection, or for the purpose of treatment; not in a spirit of revenge for wrongs done, or to satisfy the sadistic tendencies of the group.

"I do not object," he went on, "to the annihilation of the individual if he is incurably criminal and murderous, or if for any other reason the protection of society makes it desirable. I believe that we cannot emphasize too strongly the interests of society. This does not mean, however, that a life should be forfeited for every murder. Not every murderer is a permanent menace to society. The person who committed the Hall-Mills murder, for example, probably never committed another crime and probably never will. Under those circumstances it may be just as well for society that the murder should never be solved."

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 Niagara—Cont'd
 

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their geological and geographical position to those actually seen on the river Genesee at Rochester, would thus be formed. The recession of the uppermost must have been gradually retarded by the thickening of the incumbent limestone, in proportion as the Falls sawed their way southwards. By this means the second cataract, which would not suffer the same retardation, might overtake it, and the two united would then be retarded by the large quantity of rock to be removed, until the lowest fall would come up to them, and then the whole would be united into one.

Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875) was one of the greatest of the long list of Scottish geologists. He contested the idea of violent catastrophes during the earlier epochs of earth's history, and pointed out that all the observed changes could be brought about by causes now in operation if only enough time were allowed for them to act.

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The psychiatrist would want to know what is being accomplished in reform institutions toward rehabilitation of the individual—toward the cure of his criminal tendencies. No physician would prescribe year after year a certain course of treatment for his patients, directing them to follow it for a definite period of time, as six months, a year, five years, or twenty years, and then dismiss them from his mind and never ascertain whether they improved or grew worse. When a new medical treatment is developed, it is tried at first with great caution. The patient is watched with the greatest of care, and if the medicine fails in its purpose, or if it produces any ill effects in the subject, it is abandoned.

Our judges, however, go on prescribing for their patients with no knowledge and perhaps no curiosity as to the result of the treatment. No one has ever demonstrated that a boy