
NATURE RAMBLINGS

By Frank Thone

*Nobody Loves Him!*

Except for furriers, to whom his hide is valuable, nobody has a good word to say for the wolverine, one of the largest of the weasel-like carnivores. He is about the most thoroughly condemned and disliked of all animals. Even other animals, which as a rule are tolerantly indifferent to each other when there is no question of hunter or hunted, join man in his ill opinion of this heavy-bodied, surly, dirty beast.

The wolverine's ill name is not undeserved; it comes as a direct result of his ill nature. He is as greedy as a pig (whence his other name of "glutton"); he stinks like a skunk, without waiting, as the skunk does, until he is gratuitously annoyed; he is as surly as a grizzly bear and as truculent as a bobcat; he is as selfish as the traditional dog in the manger.

Trappers, even when they covet his hide and plot to possess themselves of it, hate the wolverine. He has a most diabolical cunning about robbing traps, and will put out of commission a whole line of them which may have cost many hours of hard work to set and bait. He also has an evil way of setting upon trapped animals and killing and eating them, which from the trapper's point of view is an even greater sin.

Much objuration has been heaped upon the wolverine's head because of his filthy way of befouling any food which he has killed or stolen and cannot eat at the moment. This is sometimes laid to sheer malice, but it is more likely that the wolverine is only making a cache for his own future use, and insuring against raids by other animals.

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Experts on old patchwork quilts examine the cotton wadding in estimating the age of the quilt, knowing that after the cotton gin was invented in 1792 there were fewer seeds in wadding.

Tannic Acid Treatment Helps Burns

Medicine

RECOVERY of greater numbers of child victims of burns may result from wider application of a new method of treatment, making use of tannic acid, it appears from recently reported experiments. The method was devised by Dr. Edward C. Davidson of Detroit. Recent successful results with it have been reported at the Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children and the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh.

Dr. Wilson found that the tannic acid treatment reduced the mortality from burns to about one-quarter of that observed in another comparable series of cases. As burns in children are especially apt to be fatal, these figures are particularly gratifying. The tannic acid solution is sprayed on the burned areas, which have first been thoroughly cleaned. No dressings are used and the burned area is dried, after the spraying, in hot air under a bed-cage. The spraying is repeated hourly as long as necessary.

The method controls the acute toxemia which sets in during the second stage of a burn. In the first

stage there is slight shock. The second stage is characterized by a secondary shock of toxemia. This condition is due to the absorption into the blood stream of poisons set free in the severely damaged tissues.

Besides reducing the mortality, the tannic acid treatment reduces the severity of the symptoms at all stages and promotes rapid healing. It is also of especial value when considerable areas have been burned. Previously it was held that burns of 30 per cent. of the body surface in adults and 11 or 12 per cent. in children were almost sure to prove fatal. The results obtained in Dr. Wilson's series of cases led to the conclusion that burns of more than 60 per cent. of the surface in children will cause death from shock in a few hours; that when between 35 and 60 per cent. of the surface is affected the outcome depends on the degree of poisoning which has developed; but that when less than 35 per cent. of the surface is burned, the chances for recovery are good, provided treatment is begun within a few hours of the injury.

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