July Stars—*Continued*

attractions visible these July evenings. Below it, to the northeast is Deneb, in Cygnus, the swan. Another name for this group is the northern cross, Deneb marking the top of the cross. In the northeast, about the same height, is Altair, in Aquila, the eagle, while over in the western sky is Arcturus, in Bootes, the bear driver. Antares, in Scorpio, is low in the south and, as already stated, can be distinguished by its red color. The last of the first magnitude stars to decorate this month's evening sky is seen in the southwest, Spica, in Virgo, the virgin.

During most of the first half of July, bright moonlight evenings will be the rule. The moon is in first quarter on the third, and is full on the tenth, when it rises in the east as the sun sets in the west. On the 18th comes last quarter, when it rises at midnight. New moon comes on the 25th. On the 28th, the moon and Venus are in conjunction. Then Venus will be about two and a half degrees, or about five lunar diameters, to the south.

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Calendar Watches

WHEN the 13 month year of 28 days each is adopted, you will be able to look at your watch and tell the day of the month and name of the day as well as the time of day.

Moses B. Cotsworth, originator of the 13 month year now being urged by a national committee in the United States, has just filed patent application for a modification of watches that will cause them to show automatically on their faces the date of the month and weekday name. At present the irregularities of the calendar, which would be remedied by the simplified calendar, prevent any such mechanical combination of timepiece and calendar.

Mr. Cotsworth in announcing his proposed patent explained that all makers of watches and clocks would be invited to add the calendar devices to their product without payment of royalty.

It is expected that definite progress toward adoption of the fixed simplified calendar will be made at a League of Nations conference next year.

Chronology
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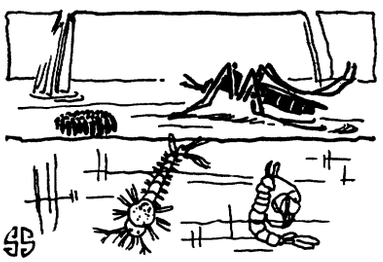
Nature Ramblings

By Frank Thone



Mosquito

EVEN the most romantic of early summer moonlight nights is apt to be rudely punctuated with self-inflicted slaps, followed by vehement general objurgations when the slapper misses his minute target and injures only himself. Most of us will agree with the despairing wag who inquired why in the name of wisdom Noah had to take two mosquitoes into the Ark.

Only that diluvian omnibus must have carried more than one pair of mosquitoes, for there are some hundreds of species of these little winged pests, some of them bearers of serious ills like yellow fever, malaria and dengue fever, others merely raisers of itching lumps on the human epidermis. Maybe they didn't go into the Ark at all: mosquitoes thrive on water, and cannot breed without it.

That gives the key to the basic combat scheme against mosquitoes. Drain ponds and puddles, empty out old barrels and tin cans, and poison with arsenic or oil the marshes that are too big to drain, and you are rid of most of your mosquitoes. For three of the mosquito's life stages—egg, larva or "wiggler" and pupa—are passed in the water, and only adulthood is a matter of the air.

But if you cannot control the breeding places completely, and so get all bitten up, you can get some relief from the itching by a sort of local chemical warfare. The general chemical reaction of a mosquito bite is acid; therefore alkaline treatment is called for. Dilute ammonia solution is perhaps the most effective "rub" for the bites. If this is not easily available, then common kitchen soap. This is better than the milder toilet soaps because it is more alkaline. The old-fashioned baking-soda paste is another good alkaline remedy.

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