



Shellbark Hickory

THOSE of us who have or can remember a rural or semi-rural boyhood background will remember the shellbark or shagbark hickory with mixed emotions. It bears about the finest nuts of any of our native trees—but it also bears the limberest and toughest switches! And as for sawing up a cord of hickory stovewood. . . .

Most of us, however, will remember the nuts better than we do the switches, and in most places hickory wood has become much too precious to be sawed up and burned. As a matter of fact, the lack of enough hickory trees was one of the few things that ever turned Henry Ford aside from an announced purpose. Mr. Ford a few years ago tried to buy up enough woodland to supply wheel spokes for his vast family of small cars, but in the end he had to give it up and take to wire spokes. The hickories have simply been cut away to such an extent that they can no longer supply spoke-wood.

The same qualities that made the hickory switch dreaded in the little red school-house days made hickory wood desirable for spokes, tool handles, and a host of similar uses. It combines great resilience with great strength, and can have a load thrust upon it with a jar many thousands of times before it finally begins to loosen up and weaken. The American Indians, lacking the yew wood that made the bows of Old England supreme among pre-gunpowder weapons, used hickory a good deal in making their bows.

The shagbark or shellbark hickory got its name from its habit of splitting and peeling off its outer bark in long, thin chunks. The ground under an old tree is frequently littered like a tanyard with these rags of its discarded garments.

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ZOOLOGY

Rabbits Adopted Into Mule Deer Tribe

WHAT is believed to be a unique case of adoption is that of two rabbits into a band of semi-tame mule deer grazing near park headquarters at the Grand Canyon, Arizona. The rabbits even accompany the deer on their nightly rambles through the adjacent forest, leaving with them at sundown and returning with them at daylight.

The rabbits themselves sought adoption when, during the winter, they were attracted to the deer feed yards by hay and barley, and timidly picked up what food they could from the ground. The deer did not object, and the rabbits began to feed alongside them at the grain troughs, and to nibble from the same stalks.

This limited companionship did not satisfy the rabbits, who apparently by this time thought themselves full-fledged members of the herd. Now the rabbits made up to the deer in many ways, bedded alongside them, nestling close. Sometimes they climbed upon their backs and often, standing upon their hindlegs, nosed the faces of the deer.

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MEDICINE

Best Bacteriophage Needed To Kill Disease Germs

CARE in selecting races of bacteriophage, destroyer of disease germs, is essential for its successful use in the treatment of disease, its discoverer, Prof. F. d'Herelle of the Yale University School of Medicine, said at the Graduate Fortnight of the New York Academy of Medicine last week.

"Bacteriophage is a parasite that is not able to develop except by penetrating into the interior of a living germ or bacterium, secreting a bacterial solvent, and then reproducing itself by feeding on the dissolved germ. Because of its destructive action on germs, it is being used in the treatment of certain diseases, especially dysentery. Very powerful, less active and very weak races of bacteriophage have been isolated.

"Any attempt at treatment with any type of bacteriophage of low potency is to court certain defeat. The sine qua non of success is the utilisation of bacteriophage races selected with care," Prof. d'Herelle declared.

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