DEATH IS AN APE

The back of the chrysalis of Feniseca tarquinius, a ferocious caterpillar that lives on the flesh of plant lice instead of the customary diet of green leaves.

stead of the common caterpillar diet of green leaves.

Their prey consists entirely of woolly aphids, sometimes called "plant lice," that live on the leaves and green twigs of alders and other trees in moist places. These aphids, like many of their kind, are "cows" to various races of vicious ants, which guard them jealously. The ants would make short work of the caterpillars, but the latter protect themselves in concealed tunnels of thin silk, and attack the aphids from underneath.

When a *Feniseca* caterpillar is ready to fall into the transformation sleep from which it will emerge as a butterfly, it becomes a chrysalis with dark markings on its back, which require no imagination at all to be interpreted as the face of a monkey, with beady black eyes and a smirking grin on its mouth.

The butterfly of *Feniseca* is a rather small, inconspicuous insect, dark-colored with lighter markings on its wings. Like its caterpillar stage, it is always to be found in the neighborhood of trees afflicted with aphids. But it does not devour them alive now. Instead, it joins the caretaking ants in feeding on the sweet exudation, called honeydew, which such sap-sucking insects secrete from their bodies. A raider in its youth, it is content to be a mere milk thief in its maturity.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1932

PSYCHOLOGY

Chinese Children Take Tests In New Peiping Laboratory

A CHILD STUDY laboratory, where Chinese youngsters have their "IQ's taken" by the most approved American methods, has been opened at the Catholic University of Peking by a young American psychologist, Dom Gregory Schramm. In the laboratory and its surrounding grounds are the things American children like to play with and on: swings, slides, sandpile, climbing bars, and so on. The tests are given in small special rooms, and take the form of "games" between the tester and his small charges.

So popular are these test "games," writes Dr. Schramm, that whenever anyone appears on the grounds with a stopwatch in his hand he is greeted with a clamor of "Nin yao wo!"—"Please want me!"

"The first difficulty with the children was a feeding problem," Dr. Schramm continues. "A supply of a favorite American powdered milk was gotten with which to refresh the youngsters before sending them home. After the prepared milk was served up, a silence ensued, and then a chorus cried, 'Pu hao he'—'Not good to drink.' Added chocolate flavor only changed the cry to 'Che shih yao'—'This is medicine!' Added sugar blocks did not change the refrain."

The difficulty was, that Chinese children are not used to milk. In crowded China, dairying is too expensive, and the Chinese are not milk-drinkers. Instead, they make a sort of synthetic milk out of soy beans and water, which is a by-product in soy bean curd manufacture. This "milk" serves as a very fair substitute for the real article, and is very cheap.

"Calling the roll is like introducing a story hour dramatis personae," Dr. Schramm writes. "There are on the scenes, among others, Little Butterfly, Big Rain, Like the Spring, Jewel Bright, Like a Hero, Black Girl, Beautiful Leaf, Fragrant Sea, Handy Man, Snow Ball, Big Ox-Eyes, Taste of Tulips, Jewelled Blossom, Pretty Maid, Beautiful Bird."

Aside from solving individual problems, of which the little Chinese child has his share just as has his occidental cousin, the laboratory staff are giving the same psychological tests at regular intervals to the same children in an effort to find out how the mental development of these youngsters compares with the growth of American children.

Dr. Schramm, director of this pioneer child study laboratory in Peiping, is himself a product of three American psychology laboratories, those of the Catholic University of America, Columbia University and the Johns Hopkins University.

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Easter Lily Unfolds Tale To X-Ray's Piercing Eye

See Front Cover

ORDINARILY it is necessary to pull a flower to pieces to find what it is doing at any given moment in its development—and that, naturally, precludes one from following its development any further. One must turn to other flowers, at other stages of their unfolding, and ruin them in their turn.

But the X-ray technique evolved by Mrs. Hazel Englebrecht, of Des Moines, offers the possibility of studying the whole drama of a developing flower or other plant organ, and yet leaving it inviolate, its robe untorn. The cover picture of this issue of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER shows the beautiful results of the method as applied to the simple structure of the Easter lily; but it is applicable as well to more complex flowers such as snapdragon or beardtongue.

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