

The Farmer's Advocate

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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large amount of those ever-present oat hulls which find their way into ground feeds, for oat hulls are crude fibre and little else. Shorts were formerly a good feed but of late they have been little superior to bran. In fact their resemblance to ground bran was a striking peculiarity and their similarity has been made even more pronounced by some analyses conducted at Ottawa. Under the present circumstances the standard feed is worthy of a fair trial for it is made under contract and the ingredients entering into its composition are known quantities. More than that the feeding value must be there for an analysis will quickly reveal any deficiencies.

We Have Turned the Corner.

Through the smoke and turmoil of battle the people of the Allied nations fighting the Huns see brighter prospects and the promise of an ultimate but certain victory. Foch's offensive has partly revealed the power of the Entente Allies, while the steady and unflinching stream of the United States troops into France has restored the confidence of all but the incurable pessimist. The French High Commissioner to the United States has said that the dark days are over, but there are hard months ahead. Hoover told the British people that the corner has been turned in regard to the food supply. A better quality of bread is being discussed in England, and France is contemplating fewer meatless days. The submarine upon which Germany depended for success has failed to starve England or cripple transportation. It was felt the world over that the enemy's last chance must come this summer and if the entente allies could but hold the western line Germany was doomed. Paris and the Channel Ports are not yet within reach of the Kaiser while Foch has even taken the offensive and struck hard. Intervention in the East has partly re-established an Eastern line and when the people of Germany know the truth regarding their recent reverses they will begin to ask why. Austria's last offensive ended so disastrously that future effectiveness on the part of that nation is doubtful; Turkey and Bulgaria seem to be losing zest. However, there are hard months ahead but the resources of the nations arrayed on our side are adequate and the corner has been turned.

Differences of Opinion.

BY SANDY FRASER.

I wis over at Duncan McGregor's the ither day havin' a chat wi' the auld man and when I wis leavin' he says to me, "I hae a book here, Sandy, that ye might like to read tae the auld wumman, some evenin' when ye hae time. I ran across it the ither day when I wis in toon an' as there is some pretty guid things in it I got it wi' the intention o' passin it on to ye for yer benefit. It tells ye somethin' about women, baith guid an' bad, as ye will see. If ye're wise ye'll juist read what is guid tae yer wife an' what is no sae complimentary read it tae yersel', or ye may get the auld lady on her ear, an' I ken she's pretty sharp wi' the tongue."

"Oh, that's a richt," I replied, "If it's true it should dae her guid tae hear baith sides o' the question regardin' her sex. I'll tak' a chance she'll no' dae me ony bodily injury, an' as for her sharp tongue, I've lang since got used tae that."

Sae I took the book hame an' the next day bein' wet, I took the opportunity o' lookin' through it. It's made up o' what men, at different times in the world's history, hae had to say about the characteristics o' women, an' it's unco strange to see what a difference o' opinion there is about the one subject. It comes frae a difference in experiences, of coorse. Some o' the writers had lived wi' guid-natured women and the ither had maybe to pit in the time wi' women that were a wee bit cross-grained in their natures an' no' sae easy to get along wi' at times.

After I'd seen what the book wis like I says to Jean: "get yer knittin', auld wumman, and sit doon for a spell an' I'll read ye somethin' I hae here that will interest ye. It tells ye what men think about you women as a class an' whether it wis a mistake or not to hae had ye on the earth wi' us men all these years back."

That fetched her, as I kenned it would, and she wisna lang in gettin' ready tae listen to what I had tae read.

"Noo Jean," says I, "dinna interrupt me gin ye can possibly help it. Mind it's no me that's sayin' onything. I'm neutral ye ken. We'll juist start at the beginnin' an' tak' them as they come. Here's the first, in the shape o' a piece o' advice to young men in general. 'Before going to war say a prayer; before going to sea say two prayers and before getting married say three prayers.' That's timely warnin' these days," says I, "I wonder if there's mair o' that." The next page or twa I read through pretty quick as I felt I wis walkin' on kind o' dangerous ground.

"If marriages were made in heaven we had few friends there." Wife and children are a kind of discipline for man. 'Woman's tongue is her sword which she never lets rust.' "As to that last," I says, "I ken o' some cases where it never seems tae wear out either. But I mustna be interruptin' mysel', I went on. "Of all men Adam was the happiest. He had no mother-in-law." 'When a man says he has a wife it means that a wife has him.' 'To make a pair of good shoes take for the sole the tongue of a woman. There's no wear out to it.' Very near what I said mysel' a meenute ago," I remarked. Jean said naething. I wis gettin' a wee bit afraid but I continued readin'. "There are only two good women in the world. One of them is dead and the other can't be found." 'It says that this is a German proverb', said I, lookin' up. "I shouldn't wonder," says Jean, kind o' short. "But here's an Italian proverb an' I'm afraid it will be no' muckle mair to yer taste," I went on. "Trust not a woman even when dead." Weel, that's somethin' like the Dagoes too," Jean replied. "Go on Sandy, I ken ye're enjoyin' yersel'." "Not at all," says I, "it's here in the book an' I've always made it a rule never tae skip onything in my readin'. Maybe the next is no sae bad. 'In buying horses and in taking a wife shut your eyes tight and commend yourself to God.' 'A man should choose a wife by his ears rather than with his eyes.' 'How many women would laugh at their husband's funerals if it were not the custom to weep.' "And I couldna' find it in my heart to blame some of them, either," says Jean, under her breath. "I'm thinkin' Sandy," she continued, "that the men that wrote those things couldna' hae been vera much, when their women-folks were what they mak' them oot tae be. Is the hale book as flatterin' tae the women as what ye hae been readin'?" "I dinna ken," I replied, turnin' over a page, "we'll see. 'Second thoughts are best. God created man first. Woman was an afterthought.' 'A man never knows how to live until a woman has lived with him.' 'Civilization is the power of good women.' How is that agreein' wi' ye, Jean?" I inquired. "Go on wi' yer readin'," she replied, beginnin' tae look interested in spite of hersel'. "A richt," says I, lookin' doon the page a little ways. "'God created woman to tame man.'" "No one that kens me will deny that one woman has fulfilled her mission, onyway," says I, wi' a kind o' a grin, "but here is somethin' that ye'll no' be likely tae quarrel wi'." I hurried on. "Luther said it is no more possible to do without a wife than to do without eating and drinking." Of coorse, as Luther wis a German," I commented, "ye may tak' that statement wi' a wee speck o' salt. But here's somethin' that we can maybe baith agree with. It's a guid one tae close an argument. 'A man can't possess anything worse than a bad woman or anything better than a good one.' Or as anither mon here puts it. 'Marriage with a good woman is a harbor in the storm, but with a bad woman it's a storm in the harbor.'"

"Weel," said Jean, lookin' up at last, "I'm not goin'

to deny that there is some truth in that. Mair than there wis in some o' what ye hae been readin'. There's generally twa sides to the story and I always liked to hear them baith told at the same time. I ken ye're no woman-hater, Sandy, because, leavin' mysel' oot o' the case a' thegither, ye've seen plenty o' good ones in yer time, an' ye understand as weel as onybody that if they are no' perfect, still they're measurin' up to a pretty high standard, considerin' the chance they've had. And noo that a better chance has come tae them in this Twentieth Century they'll show ye what kind o' a pace they can set for their husbands an' brithers, along moral an' mental or ony ither lines that ye like tae mention. They're no perfect," says Jean, takin' up her knittin' again, which she had laid doon, "but they're as good as there is goin' on this auld, half-finished airth. I'll say that." "Sure thing. Ye've said naething I wouldna swear to," I replied. "It's juist as anither o' the chaps in this book here says: 'those that always speak well of women do not know them enough, but those that always speak ill of them do not know them at all.'"

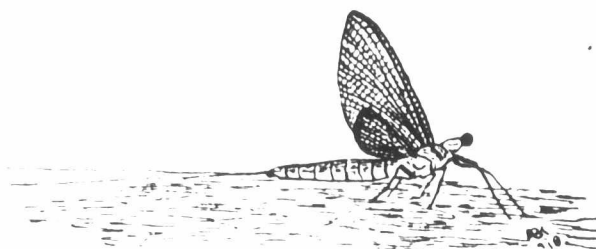
"We'll let it go at that," says Jean.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

Insects which are very abundant just now in localities which lie near large bodies of water are the Shad-flies. The adult insects, (see Fig. 1) are distinguished by their extremely large front wings as compared with the very small hind wings, and the long slender filaments, two or three in number depending on the species, at the end of the abdomen.

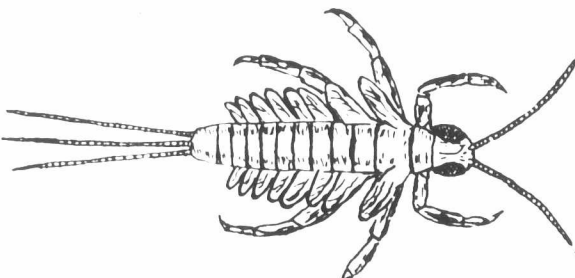
The young of the Shad-flies, termed nymphs, (see Fig. 2), live in the water and may be found either under stones, crawling about in the slime at the bottom, or swimming about among water plants. They are active creatures with long, strong legs, and they breathe by means of the tracheal gills which fringe the sides of the body. These gills enable them to breathe without coming



Shad Fly (Natural Size).

to the surface, as is the case with many aquatic insects. Each plate-like gill is a flattened sac, with upper and lower membranous walls. Inside this sac is an air-tube, or tracheal trunk, with numerous fine branches. An interchange of gases takes place through the walls of the sac, carbon dioxide passing out and oxygen, which is held in solution in the water, passing in.

The nymph lives for one, two or three years, depending upon the species, and in its later stages, that is after numerous moults, little wing-pads appear in the situation which will be occupied by the wings in the adult. When the nymph is mature it comes to the surface of the water, the skin splits down the back and the winged insect emerges and flies away. A very curious phenomenon occurs in the case of the Shad-fly which is not found in any other insect, -there is a moult after the winged stage has been reached. It emerges from the nymph in what is called the sub-imago condition and after



Nymph of Shad Fly (Enlarged).

it has flown away to the shore it moults and the imago or true adult emerges. These cast skins of the sub-imagos may be found in large quantities on trees, fences and buildings.

The adult life of the Shad-flies is short, lasting from one to four days, in fact these insects are called the *Ephemeroidea*, after the Ephemeroidea of Greek mythology, creatures that lived but a day, and from this root comes our common word, ephemeral. They do not eat at all in the adult stage and the mouth-parts are so reduced in size as to be functionless.

They fly mostly in the evening and where there are lights they continue their whirling dance most of the night. During the day they rest on tree-trunks, fences and other objects.

The eggs are laid in the water, the exact manner of depositing them depending upon the species. In some species the contents of each ovary is discharged in a mass, the eggs soon separating and sinking to the bottom. Other species deposit them a few at a time, the female alighting on the surface of the water, while in still other species the female creeps down into the water to lay her eggs on the underside of stones.

The Shad-flies, both in the nymph and adult stages, are important food of a good many species of fresh-water fishes.