

Something About Mosquitoes.

"I stood on the bridge at midnight," the saying but genial "mosquito," "musketto," "musquitto," "musquetto," "moschito," "moschetto," "mosquetto," "muschetto," "mushetto," or "musquetto," sings on these cool, damp evenings. For such a very little pet the "mosquito," has more names and in more languages than any other living thing. Scientists variously call her the *Culex pipiens*, *Aedes Americanus*, the *Cousin*, the *monchroon*, and the "humming gnat." The Century Dictionary describes the insect of many aliases as "one of many different kinds of gnats or midges, the female of which bites animals and draws blood." Persons given to attribute to the female sex all the gentleness and amiability there is in the world will bear this in mind.

Mr. Mosquito is an easy-going, gorgeously arrayed creature, with neither the disposition nor the ability to bite animals and draw blood. He is a sort of Turveydrop in the insect world, who seems to have no higher object during his brief life than "to show himself about town." His life, to be sure, is a short one but then it is full of indolence and luxury. He is expected to pay certain delicate attentions to his infinitesimal spouse, which she rewards when tired of him by giving him a short, sharp and fatal prod of the remarkable lance which she carries concealed in her proboscis. He is not provided with such a weapon, and is as much at her mercy as a boxer at that of a skilled swordsman. He is of gentle and perhaps amiable character. He lives on a strictly vegetable diet, which may account for the absence of the bloodthirsty and ferocious spirit of his spouse. She can, at a pinch, lead the life of a vegetarian; but what she wants is gore, piping hot gore, human, if she can get it, but never overlooking any chance. The toughest hide that ever covered a horse or a steer does not intervene between the lady mosquito and her vampirish thirst. It is even doubted that Col. Mosquito is given to vocal efforts. If he ever does join his consort in a nerve-destroying duet he sings very low and his performance is entirely overlooked, when the restless human appreciates the ease with which my lady takes high C and holds it until driven out of the room by the exasperated wielder of a wet towel.

Less is known about the origin of the mosquito's name than of his habits, and Canadians have no monopoly of information upon this latter phase of the subject. All climates claim the mosquito as pest in chief. On the upper waters of the Missouri mosquitoes, after a rainy season, are the greatest impediment to navigation met with. They swarm by millions. Cattle are driven in the river, and they stand with their muzzles alone held above the water, which are black with the pests. Pilots on the boats are forced to burn smudge fires. They are of every conceivable degree of minuteness, and no veil has fine enough texture to exclude them. Arctic explorers all write of sufferings at the hands of rather stings of mosquitoes.

In England mosquitoes are called gnats, and on the Continent of Europe *cousins*, *monchroons*, and other names. The gnat belongs to the genus *Culex*. It is found in most of the temperate and tropical portions of the globe where man has penetrated. About thirty species are known in the United States.

In the human family the female is the more ornamental as well as the more amiable animal. In the insect world, particularly among mosquitoes, the reverse is the case. There are mosquitoes which confine their activities to the daylight hours and lavish their caresses principally on the tender foliage of trees and aromatic plants. These principally inhabit woods and marshes. The other varieties make themselves heard and felt during the night chiefly. The greater portion of their active existence is passed in or near human habitations. These are the varieties with which man is most intimately acquainted.

Entomologists are by no means agreed as to the number of pieces in the proboscis, or "sting," of the common mosquito. This is the instrument which punctures the flesh and serves as a sort of introduction of the mosquito to the human family. Some authorities declare that it has four pieces, others aver that it has six, while still others assert that it has but five. The average layman would be unwilling to place the number below twenty. The proboscis is tubular in form. The lances attached to it, whatever their number may be, are sharper than any instrument known to the surgeon. It is not the size or depth of the wound inflicted which makes the mosquito's "sting" so painful, but rather the secretion which is injected under the skin by the proboscis. This always produces itching.

There is no unanimity among scientists regarding the question of poison in the mosquito's "sting." No poison gland has yet been found in the head of any of these insects which have been examined. The wounds have been known to swell and become inflamed in many cases. In some delicate skins, indeed, ulcers are said to have been produced, but on this latter point many entomologists throw doubts. It is certain, as millions of victims will very feelingly testify, that the wounds are often painful, and always decidedly unpleasant. The saliva injected is believed to be slightly acrid. This quality, aggravated with the action of the barbed joint on one blade of the "sucker," causes irritation, which is sought to be allayed by scratching, but which in reality makes the wound the more inflamed and painful.

Unhappily, the mosquito's "sting" is not so irritating to the victim's flesh as its "song" is to his nerves. Concerning the manner in which this sound is produced the naturalist is almost as much in the *caritas* the most ignorant and thoughtless non-scientist. The ordinary person, it is true if questioned on the subject, would unhesitatingly answer off-hand that it is made by the respiratory organs, as the vocal music of man and many of the lower animals is made. The naturalist, however, would not make this mistake. For whatever produces this sound, it appears tolerably certain that it has no necessary connection with the breathing apparatus. Kirby, a well-known British entomologist, attributed it to the friction made by the base of the wings against the chest in flying. Other naturalists equally skilled and observant, ascribe it to the rapid motions of the winglets, the motions of the poisers, or the vibrations of the thorax caused by the contractions of the muscles of the wings. The wings, indeed, move rapidly enough to produce a buzz of a fairly robust and pronounced character. One authority estimates that they vibrate fifty times every second while flying. Let 100 or 200 of these songsters be flying at one time within a dozen feet of person's head—and twice or thrice as many as that are often flying within a space smaller than that in a woods, beside a brook or in a garden—and it would be wonderful if the air were not vocal with sound.

Notice to Prize Winners.

Successful competitors in applying for their prizes, must in every case state the number of the competition in which they have been successful, and also the number and nature of the prize won. Attention to these particulars will facilitate matters, and save a good deal of time and trouble. Prize winners must invariably apply in the same hand-writing in which the original answer was sent, so that the letter and application may be compared before the prize is given out. The following sums must accompany applications for prizes, whether called for at the office or delivered by express or freight:—Pianos, \$20; Sewing Machines, \$2; Silver plated Tea Service, \$1.50; Gold Watches, Silk Dresses \$1; Other Dress Goods, 50c; Cake Baskets, 50c; Rings, 10c; Books, Brooches and other small prizes, 10c; Family Bibles, 50c; Dickens' and Elliot's Works, 50c; Tea and Dinner Sets, \$1.00; Water Pitchers, Berry Dishes, Salvers, Lamps, 50c; Knives, 25c; Guns, \$1; Breakfast Cruets, Spoons, 20c; Music Box, \$2; Forks, 10c.

We have had the above notice standing in the JOURNAL for several months, and yet in previous competitions we have had and are having daily no end of trouble to find the names in our lists of winners, who have neglected to comply with these simple requests. Those who do not in future state clearly and distinctly the name of the prize they are applying for, number of it in the competition as well as the number of the competition (given clearly at head of this list,) we will positively not take any notice of their letters. Now no one need be offended as all have fair warning. It is surely only right and proper that each person receiving a prize will at once on its receipt acknowledge it by the very next mail. It will help us and not hurt the prize winner in the least to show the prize to their friends and neighbours and tell us when writing just what they think of the prize they win. All applications for prizes must be received within thirty days after the list has been published.

It takes about three seconds for a message to go from one end of the Atlantic cable to the other.

For fourteen years a "Son of the Marshes" in Scotland has been trying to get a sight of a wild animal in the act of guarding its young in time of danger. He has tramped day after day for that purpose, but without success.

WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills.

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills.

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills.

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills.

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills.

To save Doctors' Bills use Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills.

THE BEST FAMILY PILL IN USE FOR SALE BY ALL DEALERS

Keep the Works in good order.

NORMAN, Ont., January 15, 1890.
W. H. CONSTOCK, Brockville, Ont.
DEAR SIR,—Your "Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills" are the best regulator for the system that humanity can use. Life is as the time-piece: frail and delicate are many of its works. A tiny particle of foreign substance adheres to the smallest wheel in the works, and what is the result?—at first, only a slight difference is perceptible in its time-keeping, but wait you; as the obstruction grows, the irregularity becomes greater, until at last, what could have been rectified with little trouble, in the beginning, will now require much care in thoroughly cleansing the entire works. So it is in human life—a slight derangement is neglected, it grows and increases, imperceptibly at first, then rapidly, until what could in the beginning, have been cured with little trouble, becomes almost fatal. To prevent this, I advise all to purify the system frequently, by the use of Morse's Pills, and so preserve vigor and vitality.

Yours faithfully,
H. F. ATWELL.

The Travellers' Safe-Guard.

AMAGAUDUS POND, N.S., Jan. 27, '90.
W. H. CONSTOCK, Brockville, Ont.
DEAR SIR,—For many years, I have been a firm believer in your "Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills." Not with a blind faith, but a confidence wrought by an actual personal experience of their value and merit. My business is such that I spend much of my time away from home, and I would not consider my travelling outfit complete without a box of Morse's Pills.

Yours, &c.,
M. R. McINNIS.

A valuable Article sells well.

BORACHOIS HARBOR, N.S., Jan. 13, '90.
W. H. CONSTOCK, Brockville, Ont.
DEAR SIR,—This is to certify that I deal in Patent Medicines, including various kinds of Pills. I sell more of the Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills than of all the others combined. Their sales I find are still increasing.

Yours, &c.,
N. L. NICHOLSON.

Pies and Tarts.

The average woman if asked to define her ideas of plain, wholesome living would be likely to include boiled beef, wheaten bread and quite possibly fruit pies, and reject braised meats, sponge cakes, ice cream and all other ice deserts as savoring of extravagant and "rich" cookery. There is nothing more difficult to influence than any established prejudice in a matter of household habits. The most learned and convincing treatises may be written to demonstrate the want of nutriment in boiled beef, yet the average "plain" housekeeper will boil her beef to the end of time and make her boast that she does not take any interest in new-fangled methods of cookery. Yet the scientific fact remains, based on laws that are entirely irrefutable, that there is more nutriment in a piece of beef boiled. It is a point as simple to the dietician as that two and two make four, and as difficult to demonstrate to the prejudiced or ignorant housekeeper as that arithmetical problem might be to a Patagonian savage. There is no more extravagant and unwholesome dessert than the dish of pie. Piecrust as ordinarily made is sodden and oily, with none of the lightness that is characteristic of French puff-paste—a parody on that delightful compound which has no possible excuse for existence save the ostrich-like stomachs of its consumers, which consent to absorb anything in food that comes in their way. As a matter of fact, no fruit pie can be made juicy as it should be without the under crust becoming more or less sodden. The English and French custom of baking the under crust first and filling it afterward like a tart is the correct method. It gives the cook a chance to cook a light pastry without having it soaked before it is cooked. The American method of inclosing the raw fruit in the paste, often adding some water to produce juice, is a culinary blunder. Properly made, a fruit tart is a pleasant but hardly an economical dish. It requires more time, is more difficult to make, and is certainly more expensive than a quart of cream; and is no way to be compared with it as a factor in nourishment.

A simple sponge cake, made, as it is, largely of eggs, is a more nourishing dish than any pie that can be made unless it is a custard pie made by that old-fashioned rule, "with a self-formin' crust." This was the favorite rule of an old colored "mammy" of our acquaintance, who has long since passed to the land where good cooks go. Her pie was a pie to which unqualified praise could be given because it was never inclosed in any water-sodden crust. It was a chief d'œuvre and she guarded the secret of making it with jealous care. In reality, it was a custard baked in a pie dish, with a delicate film-like crust at the bottom, just sufficient to hold it together when it was cut and served in triangles in pie form. This

crust was probably formed by stirring a tea-spoonful of corn starch in the custard, which would sink to the bottom and give the effect of this slight crust.

Adams' Tutti Frutti Gum is entitled to especial praise and recognition the American Analyst. Sold by all druggists and confectioners. 5 cents.

THE LADIES HELPER
French Pills
For all diseases peculiar to female Irregularities, removing all obstructions from whatever cause, sent by mail on receipt of \$3 per box. Address—
J. E. HAZELTON,
Graduated Pharmacist,
308 Yonge St., Toronto.

The D. & L. Emulsion
or
Cod Liver Oil
AND THE
Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda.
No other Emulsion is so easy to take.
It does not separate nor spoil.
It is always sweet as cream.
The most sensitive stomach can retain it.
CURES
Scrofulous and Wasting Diseases.
Chronic Cough.
Loss of Appetite.
Mental and Nervous Prostration.
General Debility, &c.
Beware of all imitations. Ask for "the D. & L." Emulsion, and refuse all others.
PRICE 50c. AND \$1 PER BOTTLE.