Athens Reporter

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

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STRANGE CHAPTER IN LIFE HISTORY-MYSTERY OF

Which Produces in Its Own Body Larva

A few mornings ago, as I took a walk among the rose bushes, I found a bud which I had been watching day by day, to see the unfolding beauty almost completely buried in a mass of aphides, or plant liee. Yesterday there were none upon it; but not all the rain of May, nor the peliting thunder showers of June could keep the plants free from the pest A similar tenseity of vitality is noticeable in the case of aphides, which infest turnips, cabbages, potatoes, beans, apples, pears, etc., and even conferous trees, as well as in that terribly devastating scourge of vineyards—the phyllogers, of which is a near relative of this same green insect.

green insect and looked, perhaps with very emeteratific grimace of disgust on my countenance, memory reminded me that I ought to be torbearing in my discoutent for those patriarchs of entomology. Kirby and Spence regarded these aphides as "one of the mysterics of the creation that human intellect cannot penetrate." In 1740, Charles Bonnet, a Genevies naturalist, announced that vese naturalist, announced that aphides reproduce themselves through several virgin generations. We are so accustomed to regard reproduction among animals as connected with the sexes, al-

initials is connected with the sexes, although we seem to forget that the same laws work among plants, that we are astonished when we are told that reproduction can be, and is, effectively carried on with the existence of one sex only.

The incredulity with which Bonnet's assertion was received can, therefore, be readily imagined. Reaumur put aside the difficulty by saying that aphides were "hermaphredite," containing within thomselves the functions of the two sexes. It was, however, soon demonstrated that Bonnet's observations were accurate; that the successive summer generations of plant-lice were all female, elthough imperfect in some organs; that there were no males existent contemporaneously with them, and that this was consequently a true case of the phenomenon.

there were no mates existent contemporaneously with them, and that this was consequently a true case of the phonomenon which has, rightly or wrongly, been called parthenogenests or virgin generation. Until modern science has further investigated the matter and furnished us with a more definite expression we are compelled to use this one.

There was a time when natural history meant merely making a catalogue of natural objects, and men were quite content when they had placed a certain plant or animal under a certain heading in an arrangement very often empirical, like the Linnacan system of botany.

Aligher motive began, however, to actuate students, and they become observers establise of life, as well as collectors of speciment. It was not long before the revealations brought about by the newerchapits of life, as well as collectors of specific Mr. It was not long before the sevelations brought about by the newer-line of thought led to the putting of deep questions to Nature, and making her answer them in a way which has as-

her answer them in a way which has astounded the civilized world and made
biology one of the foremost of our
studies, both in scope and in importance.
Since the days of Bonnet and Reaumur
the phnomenon of parthenogenesis has
been closely studied, and the number of
instances in which it occurs in the animal
kingdom alone is very remarkable.
This me thodof reproduction is found
in the trotifers, or wheel-animalcules,
where in one group the males have never
been found and in another only diminutive and superfluous males are known.
Among crustaceans it is met with in the
brine-shrimp, which can live in the ovaporating reservoirs of salt works; in the
fresh water apus; in the water-fless, in
sypris, another minute dweller in the
water. Insects furnish instances, as in



APHIS, WINGED AND WINGLESS. APHIS, WINGED AND WINGLESS.

two species of butterflies, a beetle, barklice, the aphides, saw-flies, gall-wasps,
death's-head moths, bees and wasps,
Many of these have been very thoroughly
investigated by von Slebold and Weismann. In 1865, Professor N. Wagner
startled the scientific world by publishing
his observations on a small two-winged
fly or midge (miastor), announcing that
the larvae produced from seven to ten
offspring within her own body, which in
the most unnatural way preyed upon and
consumed their own parent.

These in turn fild the same, and the
process went on for several generations,

Consumed tener own parent.

These in turn did the same, and the process went on for several generations, until the larvae, becoming less in size and constitutionally poorer, developed into males and females. Then these produced a few eggs, and the cycle began again. Subsequent observations have fully corroborated Wagner's statements, and thus another and even more astonishing instance of this maryellous phunomenon was afforded. The process is not unknown in the plant world, but an enumeration of the cases is outside our present purpose.

Eacts like the above mentioned make one look at the aphis, although it is a post, with more than ordinary interest, and, putting aside the thought of the destruction they cause, my horticultural readers may find some pleasure in porusing a chapter on life as found among aphides.



ANT TAPPING APHIS FOR HONEY any TAPPING APHIS FOR HONEY.
gony are males, and females intermixed.
By them the eggs are produced which, lying dormant during the winter, will carry on the species through another year.
Well is it that the aphis has some enemies, or "the great globe itself," and not merely my rose-bud, would be coated with them, but an ichneumon fly lays its eggs in them, the larva of a syrphus—a blue-black, wasp-like fly feeds on them, and the "lady-bird" clears them off with evident gusto.

mack, wasp-like fly reeds on them, and the "lady-bird" clears them off with evident gusto.

Now let us stand by this rose-bush and think awhile. In these days when evolution is on the lips of so many, a great mistake is made by hasty speakers and residers. They see in every species an advance upon some pre-existent form, as if the tendency was always upward. Development, they suppose, in their evolutionary studies, implies, as in the popular use of the word, the production of only higher forms of life. Environment, they conclude, always elaborates some organ, or specializes in a higher degree some function. If the record of the rocks, or the more recent and less complete record of human history of observations, shows a species to be unaltered through the ages, they imagine that such a species has attained a stage of perfect balance in which the organs of the body and the environment are adjusted to each other; and the species is at a standstill permanently. In consquence of this one-sided view an important factor is lost sight of—a factor which ought never to be absent from the minds of members of the human species at least—and that factor is degeneration.

In the applies before me, in the barnacle

which ought never to be absent from the minds of members of the human species at least—and that factor is degeneration.—In the aphis before me, in the barnacle of ship-bottoms and rocks, in the mite which infests the skin of the horse, in the "black-head" of the human skin, and in other less familiar animals we have instances of degeneration. The aphis belongs to the same order of insects as the active cloadas and lantern files. Its ance tor was a winged insect, and a trace of nobler state may be seen in the fact that most existing species of aphides possess winged members at certain stages of the cycle, as you can ascertain for yourself between the control," as they may perchance plead, led them to give up a roving life. They became inactive and fastened themselves on, the young tender shoots of plants, whence they could extract an abundance of nutriment at a minimum of expenditure of energy, They are not alone in this respect. The study of parasitism is fall of instances.

Life to the aphis and the parasites means only eating, digesting and growing, and in such an existence the aphis has become but very little removed, as far as the functions of life are concerned, from the plant on which it feeds, There is no need for wings, so these have gone, except when ancestry asserts itself; but little need of legs, and

which it feeds. There is no need for wings, so these have gone, except when ancestry asserts itself; but little need of legs, and so these put on a feeble form, but little need of eyes, so while they rotain two eyes still after the insect type, the two cellifound in many of their allies have disappeared. In order to fulfil their life the whole organization has become adapted to the life, and so the aphis became merely a mouth to suck with, a sac to act as storehouse, and two tubes to exclude the surplus after filling the sac.

The ant to whom the Wise Man tells us to go for an example, and become wise ourselves, has benefitted by the degradation of her fellow-insect. She seeks the surfeited aphis when inclined to indulge in the sweets of life, gently itiliates the body with her feelers, is rewarded by two drops which issue from the honey tubes and passes on to, work or to snjoy such another repast. Nay some ants have become so worldly wise that they collect the eggs of aphiles and rear a flock which they stall after the most approved fashion, so that they may have a supply at hand. So completely has the aphis made life the business of eating that she does not stop when filled to repletion, but continues to draw in the jude of the plant, passing it out through the honey tubes, from which it falls on the surrounding vegetation in the drops and the shining appearance known as "honey dew," which ultimately evaporates into a whitish crystelline sugar.

In this strange creature it is not "use"

dew," which altimately evaporates into a whitish crystalline sugar.

In this strange creature it is not "use" or "disuses" which we have to consider, as much as "abuse, "induced by superabundance of food progurable by scarcely any expenditure of labor. The organs become specialized, it is true, but the sum total of the specialization leaves the animal organization is a lower condition, and therefore, the process is sightly called "degeneration."

THE MYSTERY OF THE ROSE. Lawrence Hunter carried a big bunch of pink roses with him when he called on Alma Bentley with an important mission in his mind, and he felt that he was particularly fortunate in haying them, as they were country-bred roses, grown properly in the open air, and the last of the season.

they were country-bred roses, grown properly in the open air, and the last of the season.

He had heard the young woman bemoan the fact that she never saw any roses except those raised in hot-houses, that she did not consider art superior to nature, and should never forget the dear roses that grew in the country, in the garden of their old home—they were filled with tender as sociations.

Therefore Lawrence Hunter was full of a happy importance, as he presented her with the roses, he had plucked himself, from the bushes in a friend's garden that same day.

"You will find them delightfully fragrant," he said as she took the great bunch of bloom in her fine, alim hands, and looked at them with such loving appreciation, that the young man's pulse went up to fever heat.

She was dressed as became a rose-queen, in snowy white, and her golden hair was bound with a filet of blue, which color enhanced the fulrness of her complexion, as she probably meant it should, in the artlessness of art, And as sine held her lovely face with its delicate rose-color above the roses, the young man, strengthened hisraely solve to propose that—

But there is an old adage about man proposing. The queenly Alma knew that she could not continue to hold the roses without weathess, even flowers become burdensome, under corjain conditions.

THE LIGHT BRIGADE

The market is a final market of the control of the



A Lucky Boy.

Small Boy.—Dickie Dart is the luckiest boy I know. He is a ways havin' some thin' nice happen. He went to the theatre last night.



OF MANITOBA

Reasoning From Analog hair."
Cumso—"How did you know?"
Cawker—"George Washington
rode a white horse."

HUMAN DOUBLES Queer Incidents Caused by The Fellow Who "Looks Like Me."

In the large cities you are sure sooner or later to see among the hundreds of thousands faces you neet daily a comterpart of everpbody you have seen during your whole life. A correspondent gives the following instance of how he was mistaken for somebody else: "The other day I went late a certain restaurant in New York where I had been once or twice before. I only had forty cents in my pocket, and was calculating what I could afford to order for my meal without going into the hand of a receiver, when the waiter bustled up to my table, placing soveral glasses and a clean napkin in front of me, with an amount of silver-ware and cutlery to an extent far greater than it appeared to me the chroumstances seemed to demand. Presently, whilst I was scanning the bill of fare, a plate of turtle soup was placed before me.
"I did not order this," said I to the waiter. In the large cities you are sure soone

mand. Presently, whilst I was seanthing the billed force, a place of turtle
"I did not order this," said I toths
"I did not order this," said I toths
"I did not order this," said I toths
"That's all right, sir,"
"But, look here, there is some mis"That's all right, sir, it hat's all
"Somewhat bewildered, I ate the soup
with relish, for I was hungry. Searce
when I heard a pop and a gurgle, and
the look of the waiter was pouring
out for me a glass of champagne.
"Hold on; look here, waiter, you'te
this wine and won't pay for it,"
"He I he! I he!" laughed the attendand, I can't help that, sir, I'w got to
the waiter was pouring
out for me and won't pay for it,"
"He I he! he!" laughed the attendand, I can't help that, sir, I'w got to
this wine and won't pay for it,"
"He I he I he!" laughed the attendand, I can't help that, sir, I'w got to
the way hewildoring. I slipped a
for ke off the table and ran it into the
thigh of my right leg in order to find
out whether I was dreaming. I was
not. After the eoup came a glass of
sherry; than a royal befesteak with
various vegetables; theysome celery
of all was wondering what kind of denoue
ment there was going to be, a portly
gentleman whom I took for the
greater of the waiter was pound
of the waiter was pound
of the waiter with the most assiduous attenton. At last I began to feel it was turnle
of any whole nervous system. Just as
I was wondering what kind of denoue
ment there was going to be, a portly
gentleman whom I took for the
greater of the complex of the coller day; but you see we can treat
our camparage to be, a portly
gentleman whom I took for the
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DOGS CAN READ.

Let All Beware of the Person Whom Dogs Dislike.

Wonderful tales have been told of the marvellous instinctive intelligence of dogs, but the idea of consulting a canine oracle when a man is comtemplating matrimony is a new one. A French writer, however, says that before committing himself a man should note carefully how she whom he loves conducts herself towards her parents and her friends, and, above all, how she treats ordinary domestic animals. "Beware of a person whom children and dogs dislike," he says, "Dogs may be our inferiors, but their instincts rarely deceive them, and a pronounced antipathy on their part may well be considered as a danger signal. No compassion should be felt for him who marries a girl whom dogs snarl at and dislike, for he has had fair warning of domestic storms."

Colonel—"Do you believe that, whom the gods love die young?"" Miss Passe (act. 4')—"Don't know, I have ten years to decide." Aiways Appreciated There

"What will you do," she asked sne ngly, "when women have demonstra

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