

Curious Facts of Natural History.

A SINGLE female house-fly produces in one season 20,080,320.

Some female spiders produce nearly 2,000 eggs.

Dr. Bright published a case of an egg producing an insect 80 years after it must have been laid.

About thirty fresh water springs are discovered under the sea, on the south of the Persian Gulf.

A wasp's nest usually contains 15,000 or 16,000 cells.

The Atlantic Ocean is estimated at three miles, and the Pacific at four miles deep.

There are six or seven generations of gnats in a summer, and each lays 250 eggs.

There are about 9,000 cells in a square foot of honey-comb. 5,000 bees weigh a pound.

A swarm of bees contains from 10,000 to 20,000 in a natural state, and from 30,000 to 40,000 in a hive.

The bones of birds are hollow, and filled with air instead of marrow.

A cow eats 100 lbs. of green food every 24 hours, and yields five quarts, or ten pounds of milk.

Fish are common in the seas of Surinam with four eyes; two of them on horns which grow on the top of their heads. Two thousand nine hundred silk worms produce one pound of silk; but it would require 27,000 spiders, all females, to produce one pound of web.

Capt. Beaufort saw near Smyrna, in 1841, a cloud of locusts 46 miles long, and 300 yards deep, containing, as he calculated, 169 billions.

Lewenhoeck reckoned 17,000 divisions in the cornea (outer coat of the eye) of a butterfly, each one of which, he thought, possessed a crystalline lens. Spiders, etc. are similarly provided for.

The spring of a watch weighs 015 of a grain; a pound of iron

makes 50,000. The pound of steel costs 2d; a single spring 2d; so that 50,000 produces £416.

With a view to collect their webs for silk, 4,000 spiders were once obtained, but they soon killed each other. Manufacturers and war never thrive together.

Spiders have four paps for spinning their threads, each pap having 1,000 holes; and the fine web itself the union of 4,000 threads. No spider spins more than four webs, and when the fourth is destroyed they seize on the webs of others.

Every pound of cochineal contains 70,000 insects boiled to death, and from 600,000 to 700,000 pounds are annually brought to Europe for scarlet and crimson dyes.

A queen-bee will lay 200 eggs daily for 50 or 60 days, and the eggs are hatched in three days. A single queen-bee has been stated to produce 100,000 bees in a season.

The quantity of water discharged into the sea by all the rivers in the world, is estimated at 36 cubic miles in a day; hence it would take about 35,000 years to create a circuit of the whole sea, through clouds and rivers.

River water contains about 28 grains of solid matter to every cubic foot. Hence, such a river as the Rhine, carries to the sea every day 145,980 cubic feet of sand or stone.

Mole-hills are curiously formed by an outer arch impervious to rain, and an internal platform with drains, and covered ways on which the pair and young reside. The moles live on worms and roots, and bury themselves in any soil in a few minutes.

THE FORCE OF ARGUMENT.—
"Knowledge is power," as the man said when he knocked his neighbor down with a volume of the Penny Magazine.