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CURB THE RHEUMATIC INFECTIONS

The true prevalence of rheumatic infections is unknown because the malady is not like scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever and others, reportable. Rheumatic infection introduces us to heart disease which with the co-incident blood vessel disease loads all others in the list of public killers. Rheumatic fever ranks high among the most severe diseases; it is not so amenable to prevention as syphilis and tuberculosis. So far we lag in our efforts to control this crippling disease.

Begin in Schools

Our efforts in the control of rheumatism must begin in the schools. Examinations of children in schools has uncovered some appalling facts. 80 per cent of the total organic heart disease of school children has a rheumatic origin. This becomes an important problem when we consider that 3 out of every 100 children are sufferers.

Rheumatic conditions seem to be more frequent among persons living in poor hygienic surroundings. The facts indicate that poverty, malnutrition and unhygienic surroundings are the most favourable for the development of rheumatic infections.

Growing Pains

Children in families living under the aforementioned conditions are apt to complain of "growing pains"; they fail to gain in weight, have unexplained fever and may exhibit functional heart murmurs. The first attacks occur between the ages of 5 and 12, the peak coming at about 7. They are rare under 2 and uncommon after 10.

Recurring attacks

A feature of rheumatism is the habit of recurrence; attacks are apt to be repeated with damaging results to the heart.

Old Theory

There is an old theory that cold and damp predispose the body to rheumatic fever. This is probably explained by the fact that there are more colds, grippe and tonsillitis in cold and damp climates. Prevention is the chief in rheumatic fever. The child with growing pains, grippe, tonsillitis and sinus attacks should promptly be put to bed; he should remain in bed until well. Infected tonsils and other foci of infection should be removed. Children should be well fed, clothed and cared for. It will save handsomely to check the onset and course of rheumatic fever.

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It's the same the world over come Saturday night, so this member of the South African engineers corps in Kenya colony sliced a gasoline barrel in half and put himself, plus soap and water, in it.

NEWSY NATURE NOTES

By Stuart J. Thompson

ONE OF NATURE'S SUCCESSSES

"Those dandelions! How I wish I could get rid of them from my lawn!" How often have we heard this? Some of us appreciate the little flower whose head of gold is ever a bright spot on the green background of grass. It is the same story all over again. When anything becomes a nuisance, its value goes down. Even real gold would become a "drug on the market" if found everywhere. And so this pretty little flower is a mere weed. But let's hear the dandelion's story. It is perhaps our commonest flower. In Nature that means it is a success. We do not hear of failures in Nature. They die off. The dandelion has conquered in Europe and has made good in the new world, just as some of our forefathers made good as colonists in the early pioneering days and so we ourselves are citizens of Canada. As a rule the world worships success, yet the dandelion is not popular.

Now suppose it were a really homely flower, with a nondescript form, a nondescript color, and with prickles or a bad odor—there are some plants with these objectionable traits—we might have some reason to dislike it. But really it is as shapely as most flowers, it has no prickles and no bad odor, and its color is the purest gold found anywhere in botany—a little touch of reflected sunshine on the ground.

Its name too is interesting. Botany, of all studies, I believe, has the greatest collection of odd names, some fanciful, some absurd, others obscure, and unfortunately many appropriate. Think of such names as "Love-in-a-mist," "Heart's-ease," "Hound's-tongue," "Beecher's-blossom" and a score of others and we have examples of imagination running loose. The name dandelion appears at first to be far-fetched and obscure. What is there about this flower to resemble a dandy lion? But when we find that the name has really come from French "dent de lion", suggested by the large scallops in the edges of the leaf resembling the teeth of the lion, the plant is not so badly named.

The dandelion has a most ingenious method of distributing its seeds. The golden head of the flower in due time becomes a mass of delicate silken parachutes each bearing a seed. Really this gauzy seed-laden head is as beautiful an object as the flower in full bloom. But the wind blows and the light summer zephyr passes along and lifts off the little parachutes and bears them away to drop their seed-cargoes elsewhere. Fifty, sixty, perhaps seventy-five seeds are being blown away, no wonder the dandelion is abundant, even allowing for those which fall upon the scriptural "barren ground". There is something about this flower in a flower apparently deliberately planning to utilize the wind to distribute its seed. Such a thought is worthy of Man himself.

Not this ingenious flower with the golden head without its uses to Man who slights it. Who has not heard of Dandelion wine, perhaps made in the garden as you know, and these heads so laboriously? And in early spring it is a family sight to see folk of foreign origin gathering dandelions? For what purpose? It is a craving in the human system for "green" after a long confining winter. The people of the old land know of something of medicinal value in what we here consider a weed. They recognize in our unwanted dandelion an old friend known in Europe and seek its blessing here in Canada.

Management of Dairy Cattle on Pastures

Good pasture properly utilized is one of the most important crops on the farm at any time. This is a matter in view of the urgent necessity for increased milk production to enable Canada to meet the demand of cheese shipments to Great Britain through the war and proper management of pasture takes on increased significance, says George W. Muir, Dominion Husbandman, Central Experimental Farm.

Around late July the regular pasture usually begins to fall due to heat and dry weather. This is usually the time to provide proper supplements to the pasture. If the cows go down in milk production it is difficult to get them up again. The ideal supplement is the aftermath growth on an area where an early crop of hay has been taken off.

If aftermath pastures are not likely to be available then provision should be made for supplementary pastures in the form of some annual pasture. This may consist of an area of about one acre for every three acres of the regular pasture, seeding oats alone 3 bushels or a mixture of oats 3 bushels and Sudan grass 20 lbs., or oats two bushels and rye 1 bushel, or oats two bushels and sweet clover 15 lbs. to be sown the last week in May or the first in June. This may be pastured when about 6 inches high leaving the cows in it for an hour or two in the morning and evening after milking. Later if convenient the cows can have access to the regular and annual pasture at the same time but do not let the annual pasture head out or it will be wasted. Plan for complete utilization of both the regular and annual pasture provided.

If neither aftermath or annual pastures are provided then grain feeding may be necessary if production is to be kept up during the dry period. In the early part of the season a mixture of ground oats and barley will be sufficient but later in the season add a little protein-rich concentrate such as alfalfa or soybean meal. Grain feeding will be expensive and should be avoided by planning for fresh pasture supplements.

For a later fall supplement sow some corn fairly thick in an area where it can be cut and thrown over the cows with the least possible labor. It is good business to plan to supply the cows with a continuous ration of fresh green pasture and keep up the milk production throughout the whole pasture season.

MINUTE MINIATURE

BRIEF BACKGROUND IN THE CAREERS OF CANADA'S CAPTAINS IN WAR.



AIR VICE-MARSHAL L. S. BREADNER, D.S.C. Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Canadian Air Force.

A German taught Air Vice-Marshall Lloyd Sam Breadner, D.S.C., Chief of Canada's Air Staff, to fly. The Reich has lived to rue the day when that German was born, as months ahead of schedule, hundreds of fighter pilots, products of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan stream across the Atlantic to help in the Battle of Britain, and to carry war deep into industrial Germany.

Breadner was born in Carleton Place, Ontario, in 1894. Later he moved to Ottawa, where his father is a wholesale manufacturing jeweller with a factory on Somerset Street.

In 1915, wishing to qualify for the Royal Naval Air Service in Great Britain, Breadner joined the Wright Flying School in Dayton, Ohio, paid about \$60 per flying hour out of his own pocket—and upkeep as well, while waiting his turn to complete this course. This comprised a total of three hours flying experience. After that his German instructor qualified him as a pilot.

June 1916 saw Breadner over the Belgian coast as a fighter pilot. Within a year he commanded a squadron of his own and had won the Distinguished Service Cross. With the formation of the Royal Air Force in 1918, he was transferred to that organization and served with it till the end of the war. When the Armistice was signed he took his discharge at the Crystal Palace, London, and immediately returned to Ottawa.

Breadner, welcomed into his father's business, spent just 16 months out of the country's service. Then his father Commanding Officer, Colonel J. Stanley Scott, newly appointed first Controller of Civil Aviation in Canada, persuaded him to become his assistant. Not since then has Breadner been dissociated from aviation.

When the Royal Canadian Air Force was founded in 1924, Breadner, then Acting Controller of Civil Aviation, was recommended by R.C.A.F. Officer Commanding, R.C.A.F. Station, Camp Borden. The next year he was sent to the Royal Air Force staff college at Andover, England, and on his return, with the rank of Wing Commander, became Acting Director of the Royal Canadian Air Force. For another three years after that he was C. O. Trenton R. C. A. F. Station, organizing the early development of what is today Canada's number one training station.

In 1935 he returned to England to attend Imperial Defence College. Soon after war broke out, he was back in England, this time as Air Advisor to the Honourable T.A. Crerar, during a conference to coordinate the Empire war effort.

Breadner, who returned to Ottawa on Christmas Day of '39 just a week after the launching of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, was placed in charge of operations. May 29th he became Chief of Air Staff, Griff and aggressive. Air Vice Marshal Breadner is today pushing the Air Training Scheme like a powerful engine.

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WHAT HAPPENED AT MONTALBAN

By PETER BENEDICT

"Tell everything," said Molly. "We already knew one person had paid her money. What we found out—or verified—is nearer the mark—is that there must have been another source. The money was too much to have come from the source we know."

"Anis, also, is in confidence," said Severn.

"Naturally." "John paid her five hundred pounds on the occasion of her second visit here. I was the agent of the transaction. I tried my best to dissuade him. You are at liberty, of course, to believe or disbelieve that, as you choose."

"I believe it. Why not? So you concluded someone else besides my grandfather had paid out blackmail. Yes, go on."

"We chose your father as the most probable person," Severn's voice was still low. "He saw her as a young girl sodden with cocaine, when her stepfather's car smashed over the house as Charles's fiancée. He always knew why she married my father. Plenty of reasons—profound reasons. Who was so likely to have reason to buy her off?"

"And who so likely to have killed her—when it became plain that she wouldn't be bought off?"

"And when he found she had fled your grandfather into the bargain, Sir John admitted it to him on the day she was murdered. Who wouldn't have murdered her?"

"Why, indeed? Yes, you make out a very good case. There would always be my mother's word against you, of course. How much weight it would have against circumstantial evidence I don't know. A wife is expected to tell a lie for her husband upon occasion."

"Don't worry!" said Severn. "Unless something quite unforeseen happens, there will be no case to answer. We're neither of us police agents or garden busybodies digging in other people's atomiums."

"I never thought so. But what puzzles me is, why did you go to so much trouble? If you're not police agents, what are you? Enthusiastic amateur detectives, evidently, but with what end in view?"

Severn smiled. "A very laudable end. No less than the prolonging of the life of my grandfather, a nephew to be a front-line suspect in the murder of Mallia myself."

It was impossible to stifle Robert's eyes, which looked quickly through the window at Severn's grimly amused face. "Do you mean that? Why? What have you to do with it, of all people?"

"It is a case of mistaken identity. Apparently Mallia had a partner, in some disreputable business, in France last year, who answered to the name of Severn. My theory is that she was a partner again—that she double-crossed me, and that I wiped her out."

"YOU KNOW WHO KILLED HER?" Robert Montalban was silent for a full minute, a slight rueful smile touching his lips. Then he said to Severn slowly, "I see. Yes, I do see. A very proper basis for investigation, too, so far as I am concerned. It will be so difficult to disentangle yourself from this—ex-partner of Mallia's?"

"Unfortunately," said Severn, "I was in France at the time. When still, I left Paris the day after the pair of swindlers disappeared. All depends on the memory of the staff at the hotel where I stayed, and the hotel is a very old-fashioned affair. I don't place absolute reliance on my photograph—not even on my face. I have been known to be signed out from identity pads before. Well, are you satisfied I have a reason for playing detective?"

"I should call that an excellent reason," admitted Robert, the wry smile deepening. He turned his head and looked at Molly. "And Miss Baldwin, the coming of my father to suppose that she's involved, too?"

"Indirectly, yes." It was Molly who answered him, choosing her words with a deliberate deliberation. She put her hand upon Severn's where it lay idly upon the rough stone of the seat. "Lawrence and I are going to be married. It was the first time she thought of it in those terms, and she felt her heart torn in her; but it was said, and said calmly, and she knew that it was true."

There was a moment of silence while Robert sat looking at them both in astonishment, and the quality of his face changed. "It's incredible, I know, but I'd never thought of that. I can't imagine why. Of course, that let's you in, may I thank you for congratulating you both?"

They thanked him as one person, gravely. "Well," said Severn, "are we justified?"

"My dear man! I was jealous for my own family skeletons, that's all. Go ahead with your defences. He added with some anxiety, "By the way, you won't let Grandfather feel too deserted, will you? He depends on you so absolutely."

"No," said Robert. "It can't be long. He rose, holding by the arm of the seat to leave himself up. "I'm glad you told me all this. And now, shall I tell you something? I admit everything you've said; you make a reasonable and convincing case, and I know a most sincere case, but it brings you to a wrong conclusion. My father did not kill Mallia."

He turned his head, and looked at them with a smile. "I don't ask you to believe it, just to know that I believe it, and perhaps to bear it in mind. That all. You won't do anything about it until unless you're actively threatened, Lawrence?"

"My sympathy for whoever killed Mallia," said Severn, "is so profound that only the consideration of my own life can possibly induce me to do anything against his interests."

"Very well put! Shall we go back now? I have a hankering for one more plunge before tea. I never can resist the lake. It's the one element in which I'm still at home. He smiled and shrugged his shoulders. "I like to show off. Who doesn't?"

"They were on the crest of the bridge when he stopped short, leaning upon his hands on the low balustrade to look down into the deep water expanding suddenly fanwise into the lake from under the single arch.

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"I have problems of my own just at present," said Robert, in his soft, contemplative voice. "I'm going away tomorrow—for another operation. Lawrence knew about it, I believe."

"Yes," said Severn. "You did tell me."

(To Be Continued)

ADDS HANDSOME LUNAR WORK TO COLLECTION

MONCTON, N. B., May 29.—To Austin McMahon who helps groom the powerful swift airbirds of the Trans-Canada Air Lines in through service between Montreal, Moncton and Halifax, the coming of summer means an opportunity to add to his collection of Lunar moths. This morning he secured a prize specimen of the night hawk moth in his collection.

In contrast to most other collectors, specimens come to McMahon rather than his having to search for them. The explanation is that the intense light within the hangar at the airport from the latest in lighting facilities attracts the moths during the night-time and in flying to the source of the light the moths impinge on the outside of the windows where they stay and in the morning McMahon goes along and just picks them off. He has recently added match box covers to his collection of "pre-war ground" species and not ravaged of crops.

MODERN BABEL

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