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"The yellow can with the black band"

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Foxes and Fox Ranchers

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NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

CAMOUFLAGE

During the Great War the method of concealment called camouflage was practised in a thousand different ways, and the inventors of them doubtless took credit for originality: yet the scheme is as old as nature itself. The birds, beasts, and fishes instinctively use it, and insects are star actors.

The bittern (or marsh hen) that I disturbed the other day was fully cognizant of its use; it stretched its head, neck and body into a straight line, and remained motionless, like a branch or snag, till the danger was past. The mosquito hawk or night hawk rests, not crosswise, but lengthwise on a branch and in this manner appears to be part of it and so escapes particular attention.

Our little Acadian owl, or 'Saw-whet' when scared moves its head up and down incessantly. Seen thus in a dark hole in the tree where it makes its nest, the two glittering orbs in constant motion have a most disconcerting effect. In the presence of certain foes, the long necked woodpeckers act in a curious manner; they flatten themselves to the ground and move the neck and head rhythmically in a very realistic snake like manner. From man their best refuge is in flight.

The amphibians stimulate their surroundings. The pigment cells of the skin are adaptable so that a light colored frog put into a locality with darker coloring, will in the course of half an hour or so, become a much more sombre looking animal.

Among the infinite variety of fishes I may only select a couple. The flat-fishes present on their upper surface a coloring harmonizing with the sea-bottom, the invisible undersurface remaining white. The cuttle fish or "ink-fish" is the originator of the "smoke screen." When pursued it ejects an inky fluid which surrounds the fish like a fog in the water and hides it from sight. Our only representative of the cuttle-fish is the squid which occurs on the fishing grounds; I do not know whether this animal has the ink-like secretion.

Who has not noticed how insects simulate death? Many bees and spiders have a habit of dropping to the ground, still and contracted, till the disturber has gone. If they fall among grass it is almost impossible to find them. Many of our syrphus flies range the flowers buzzing the while and are colored to resemble bees and wasps. The large Eristalis, sometimes called the drone fly is frequently a cause of unfounded fear. It resembles a wasp and enters houses, schools, etc in the autumn seeking a place to hibernate for the winter, and its loud buzz is taken as a sign of an aggressive temper. It is however perfectly harmless. It may easily be known by the smoky area on the wings, which moreover are only two in number, whereas the wasps have four. The subject of camouflage in insects is almost exhaustible, and no doubt many of my readers have noticed examples.

RABIES

There has been another outbreak of rabies in Canada, a girl in Montreal having died from the bite of a rabid dog. We are fortunate in escaping a visitation of the malady in this province, as it not only attacks the dog, but it is asserted, has been observed in the fox, raccoon, skunk and other animals. The malady is characterized, at a certain stage, by the irrepressible desire of the animal to use its weapons of defense; dogs and other flesh eaters attacking with their teeth, herbivora with their horns, and birds with their beaks, and therein lies the danger to man.

Rabies does not begin at once with fury and madness but with a strange change in the habits of the dog. It becomes dull, and taciturn, and seeks shelter, retiring beneath chairs and into odd corners but even there it cannot rest, jumping up and lying down in a sleeping attitude for a few minutes, then repeating the perform-

ance. These symptoms call for the attention of a veterinary and until his arrival, the animal should be safely penned up, especially as it still obeys its master's voice.

The symptoms gradually become marked and the restlessness increases. If on straw the dog pushes it about or rolls it with its paws; in a room it scratches the floor and tumbles up its bedding. It now acts as though under intense mental influence; after standing still and attentive, it will throw itself forward, yelling furiously and snapping at the vacant air, as at an imaginary enemy. The saliva becomes virulent now, and contrary to popular opinion there is no dread of water; the animal tries to lap even when the throat is so swelled that it cannot swallow. The voice becomes cracked and stridulous, the "voix du coq" as the French have it—a kind of crow like a child with the croup. Another test is to allow it sight of another dog—indeed all rabid animals become excited, exasperated, and furious at the sight of a dog. Even the timid sheep while rabid will butt furiously at a dog which normally it would flee from. One of the most remarkable observations is that a rabid dog will not bite its master.

IN MEMORIAM

MISS CHRISTINA McLEAN

The death occurred at Peters Road on July 12th at the home of her nephew, Miss Christina McLean, aunt of Mr. Murdoch of Georgetown, after a short illness which she bore with patience and resignation to God's Holy will. In the course of the sermon tribute was paid to the Christian character, sterling qualities, the very high esteem in which the deceased was held and her pleasant disposition and genial manner which caused the entire community as well as all who knew her to realize she was a sincere friend to all.

The many beautiful floral tributes show the high esteem in which she was held, she was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, she leaves to mourn one sister to whom sincere sympathy is extended.—A.

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