

## Science Notes

BY WILLIAM G. HAYNES.

### BLOOD SUCKER ONCE VALUED.

Our great-grand fathers regarded the leech as a sort of first-aid outfit in case of sickness. In the days when blood-letting was a popular pancea the physician would have worried less over the loss of his pill box than over the death of this little animal. And so long as blood-letting was popular there was nothing to match the efficiency of the leech.

Nature fitted him for the task to which the physician adapted him. Long before he was used on humans the leech was performing operations of his own on fish, frogs and other neighbors of his in the mud and slime at the bottom of his marsh home.

His operating tools consist of a cup-like sucker at the end of his tail and another at his mouth. Also at his mouth are three semi-circular, sharp-toothed jaws, which he works together like a saw. With these he cuts his way through the scales of a fish and reaches the blood.

Then the leech's worm-like body begins to expand. He has 11 pairs of sacks in his stomach, and he must fill all these before he is satisfied. He drinks until he is from two to three times his natural size.

The leech is liveliest in daytime, and at night curls up for a nap. When winter comes he buries himself in the mud and waits for warmer weather.

### EDIBLE FLOWERS.

In some regions of eastern Europe it is the custom to mix violets, roses and limes with sweetmeats in order to impart a floral tincture to the taste of fruit. In Turkey sweets are made of carnations, lilies and lavender. Floral sandwiches are made in Greece and Turkey with nasturtiums, a most edible flower that grows in most warm and temperate climates in profusion. Sandwiches are also made of peppermint finely ground and spread over thinly sliced radishes between even more thinly sliced and buttered bread.

It is said that the dahlia furnishes an excellent food, although somewhat acrid. In the kitchens of China and Japan flowers are almost as much in use as are vegetables in the preparation of rare dishes.

### THE FLOWERS OF THE SEA.

Like the land, the sea has its flowers, but the most brilliant of the marine flowers bloom not upon plants but upon animals. The living corals of tropical seas present a display of floral beauty that in richness and vividness of color and variety and grace of form rivals the splendor of a garden of flowers. The resemblance to blossoms is so complete that some persons find it difficult to believe that the brilliant display contains no element of plant life, but is wholly animal in its organization.

Among the sea animals that bloom as if they were plants are included, besides corals, the sea anemone and the set cucumber. It has been remarked that the birds and butterflies of the upper world are replaced by fishes of curious forms and flashing colors which dart about among the animal flowers.

### A SURGICAL MAGNET.

An ingenious surgical instrument is intended to extrast prticles of iron and steel from the human eyes. It consists of a powerful electro-magnets. When an operation is to be performed one end of the magnet is cau-

tiously brought near the patient's eye. If a piece of steel or iron is imbedded in the eyeball of the patient experiences a sharp pain as the metallic sliver forces its way through the tissues and flies to the magnet. The injury to the eye is stid to be less than that caused by using a knife.

### CARE OF THE BABY. Birth Registration.

Has the birth of your baby been registered? If not, you should see to it that this duty is pformed without delay. It may some time be of the greatest importance to your child that there be in existence an accurate legal record of his birth, date, place, and parentage. Such a record serves to establish his age beyond question, and through this his right to the legal period of schooling and freedom from labor. It may also serve to establish his right to a disputed inheritance and to establish for him various property or other legal rights which may be in dispute. There are numerous instances where the lack of this sort of record has been the cause of serious losses of inheritance and of educational and other rights.

In New York City in 1913 the birth records helped to enforce the personal or property rights of more than 138,000 persons.

It is, in most states, required by law that the doctor, midwife, or other attendant at birth shall report the birth to the registrar of births, but as this duty is not infrequently neglected, parents should investigate to see whether it has been done properly in the case of their children.

The complete registering of all births is indispensable, not only to the individual, but to the state and the nation.

The Federal Government can and does tell us exactly how great is the accession to our population each year by immigration, or intake from foreign lands. At each port of landing immigration inspectors record each arrival and tell us his or her nationality, age, sex, destination, and how much money each one brings. But the Federal Government cannot go into the States and cities and establish registration offices and tell us how many children enter each State by birth. This work must be done by each State separately. We have no national bookkeeping to account for the ebb and flow of human life as an asset and a liability of our civic organism. We have no national records to give our sanitarians and students a basis for their preventive studies. Congress by resolution has urged the States to enact and enforce suitable registration legislation. The State governments must now act.

Most of the States now have adequate laws; their enforcement, however, depends to a large extent upon popular support. This support is assured if individual parents will insist upon the registration of each birth.—Prepared by the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor.

### MAJOR CHARLES YOUNG GIVEN SPINGARN MEDAL

(Continued from first page.)

of re-organizing and training the Liberian Constabulary, and it is especially for his brilliant work in this connection that he is receiving the Spingarn Medal.

Ex-Secretary of War Garrison wrote on January 28:

"It is especially gratifying to me to learn that Major Charles Young, Tenth Cavalry, is to receive this recognition for his services in Liberia have been of a high order. His service there has received the highest

commendation from the President and Secretary of State of Liberia, as well as from our own Secretary of State and our Charge d'Affaires at Monrovia. I have directed the Commanding General, Eastern Department, to designate an officer to represent the War Department on the occasion of his receiving the medal.

Major-General Leonard Wood writes:

"I appreciate very much the good work which has been done by Major Young in Liberia. He was selected for this work because of his special qualifications, good judgment and ability. It is a great satisfaction to know he has so fully met the requirements of that difficult situation. His service in the Army has been highly creditable to his race from every standpoint, and I beg you to transmit to him my sincere congratulations on the good work which he has accomplished and the well-earned recognition which he has received."

After the presentation of the medal to Major Young by Governor McCall, addresses were made by Bishop J. W. Hamilton of the M. E. Church, Dr. W. E. Du Bois, Editor of the Crisis, and Dr. Alexander Mann, rector of Trinity Church, Dr. Horace Bumstead, formerly president of Atlanta University, and Major of the Forty-third Regiment of Colored Troops in the Civil War, described the work of the Negro as an American soldier. A large representation of officers from the army posts near Boston was also present, and the War Department was officially represented.

The Spingarn Medal is offered each year by the donor and is not restricted to any particular field of human endeavor. Last year the first medal was awarded to Dr. Edward E. Just, professor in the Haward University Medical School, for distinguished work in biological research and for the advancement of medical education among colored people. It was presented to him by Governor Whitman in the Ethical Culture Hall, New York City, before two thousand people, and the occasion received the widest publicity in the press of the whole country, because of the recognition given a Negro for high scientific attainments.

### COCKNEY AN OLD DIALECT

Writer Asserts That Peculiar Pronunciations Have Been in Use for Hundreds of Years.

Cockney speech has found a defender in Mr. Mackenzie MacBride, who undertakes to show that Cockney is no modern dialect or corrupted form of the King's English, but that it is of ancient and honorable lineage running back for nearly a thousand years.

It is pointed out that when the person "born within the sound of Bow Bells," says "thet" for "that," "benk" for "bank," and "byliff" for "bailliff," he is really guilty of no corruption of the English language, since these pronunciations have obtained not only in London but in Kent and Surrey for hundreds of years.

In like manner is justified "abaht" and "ahtside" for "about" and "outside." It is suggested that many Londoners have been laughed out of these "ancient and excellent" pronunciations. Mr. MacBride earnestly urges them not to change their speech because of any uncalled-for animadversions against it.

Whether Mr. MacBride be correct or not in his contentions, it is a fact that Cockney has survived for many centuries in the midst of speech that is deemed more cultured. It is a curious fact that in the Bahama islands, which were settled more than 200 years ago by Londoners, the Cockney speech is as strong as it is in Cheapside.

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