

## SUN NOT NEEDED BY THE FLOWERS

Scientists Find They Grow as Well Under the Electric Light.

Washington.—The affection of plants for the kindly sun, so long proclaimed by observing poets, appears to be a trifle exaggerated. A rose can be made to grow and bloom under a yellow electric light, or an artificial light of blue, red, or any other color, and it will still be a rose and look just about the same as if it had been "kissed by the gentle sunbeam."

Experiments in raising plants under colored light have been conducted in the past, and the experimenters have emerged from their weirdly colored greenhouse laboratories to report that under blue, green, or purple light plants failed to develop normally.

But as Dr. W. W. Garner of the Department of Agriculture and his associates, H. A. Allard and Dr. R. A. Steinberg, continued this remarkable work with the effect of light on plants they got around to the question of colored light with the interesting results already mentioned.

Dr. Garner and Mr. Allard have already proved a revolutionary theory to account for the fact that chrysanthemums bloom in November, and common irises bloom in May, and poinsettias bloom in December. Temperature had always been regarded as the controlling factor in this question of seasonal blooming. And yet, florists had tried to make cosmos bloom in off seasons in greenhouses by keeping the temperature at a September level—with no luck.

**Length of Day Important.**

"The important factor which has been overlooked," says Dr. Garner, "is the length of the day. When cosmos are exposed to light for the number of hours that a September day would give them, they make haste to bloom. Plants may be injured or benefited by changes in temperature and in the intensity of light. Some are very sensitive to these factors. But, in general, life habits of plants do not depend on such uncertain conditions. Every first day of September is the same length, allowing for slight calendar variations, and plants have been under the influence of the unchanging cycles of light for thousands of years; so it is not surprising that the plant world is governed by them."

This theory has been tested by government experiments on nearly 200 varieties of plant life, including trees, wild and cultivated flowers, farm crops and weeds. Varieties that bloom when the days are short are called by the experimenters short-day plants, and those that bloom under long light exposure are called long-day plants. By rolling trucks laden with specimens into dark houses, the day can be shortened in some experiments, and by lighting greenhouses at night the days can be lengthened for other tests.

At the government experiment farm right now the scientists have, among other exhibits, poinsettias and chrysanthemums in bloom. In December they have such plants as irises and corianders in full bloom. The blossoms are normal in all respects and some are superior.

**May Be Kept From Blooming.**

Keeping a flower from blooming is easy enough by the new light theory. Some cosmos grow up from seed during the spring in a long-day greenhouse that was illuminated from sunset to midnight. In June the plants were moved out of doors where they received only normal summer sunlight. Not until October came and the days were the right length for cosmos to bloom did these specimens produce any blossoms. The plants were then 15 feet high.

This is the freakish sort of thing that sometimes happens when plants are brought to the United States from the tropics. Often these specimens grow to ridiculous heights and never produce flowers or seed because the sunlight ration is never just right for those processes.

One of the most striking proofs of the light theory is a specimen which has a cluster of blossoms on one branch and no flowers on another. One branch of the plant was induced to flower by giving it the exact light-day necessary, whereas the other branch was covered from the light during a part of each day. Both branches got food and water from the same soil, through the same stalk, but the light rays affected only the spray that was uncovered. The other spray continued to grow normally, but without producing buds.

From lengthening and shortening the days for plants it seems only a step to experimenting with artificial day-light; but Dr. Garner found that this was quite a different proposition. When the plants were exposed to light a few hours overtime each day, very weak electric light was adequate. Mid-day sunlight may be equal to 10,000 foot-candles—the intensity of 10,000 standard candles at a distance of one foot. But for the lengthening of a day, electric light equalling five or ten foot-candles was sufficient for most specimens.

When no sunlight at all was given to specimens, however, it became necessary to use very bright electric lights. With this stimulation plants behaved just as if they had been out of doors. If there are any mysterious qualities peculiar to sunlight, they do not seem to be necessary to plant growth.

**Only Woman Colonel in the United States**

Middletown, N. Y.—Fifty-two years ago Hector Sinclair, of Eldorado, Kan., lost a prized copy of the writings of the Jewish historian, Josephus.

He searched for the book for years and recently he learned that he could acquire a similar copy at a second-hand bookstore at Albany. He paid \$2.50 for the book and looked at the title. He found on it his own name, written there more than half a century ago.

## OLD INDIAN HUNTER RECALLS BIG FIGHT

Jim Gillett Tells of Early Days in Texas.

New York.—Capt. Jim Gillett of Texas is in town and the Museum of the American Indian hasn't heard about it. Capt. Jim Gillett is in town and the Natural History museum's Indians sulk in waxen dignity. The captain can't find even so much as a wooden cigar store Indian.

But perhaps you don't know who Capt. Jim Gillett is.

Well, then, he was one of the frontier battalion of the Texas Rangers in the train-robbing Seventies. He was marshal of El Paso in the early Eighties, when keeping the law in El Paso was a mean job, requiring the rapid and expert manipulation of explosive hardware. Probably the captain has "fit" more redskins than any one north of the Rio Grande today.

For more than half a century Captain Gillett fought redskins, punched cows, kept the peace, and ranched in the wildest state. Now, for the first time in his life he's come North. He's been doing New York. He sat in the Hotel Commodore and reminisced of old times, of when he fit the varmints, when no day was started right without a bit of gun fighting.

The grizzled Indian fighter, now sixty-eight, started shooting with an old Enfield musket some one brought home from the Civil war. It was as long as a fence rail and twice as heavy. The frontier boy had to shoot with a rest—he couldn't hold it up. And, oh, how it kicked!

The captain fought Comanches, Kickapoos, Apaches, all deft fellows with the scalping knife, but his first brush with redskins came just after he had joined the frontier battalion. Fifteen Lipans from Old Mexico had swooped down on a ranch and made off with a herd of horses.

Thirteen rangers went after them and Jim Gillett was among them. They rode 40 to 60 miles a day. They camped by accident in a nest of rattlers and several horses were bitten.

Old Captain Robert never faltered and after some days they came upon the marauders and captured or killed them after a wild fight. Gillett himself rode down the chief of the band, but had a narrow escape from bullets and arrows.

## Merrimac's Prow in a Baltimore Junk Yard

Baltimore.—The prow of the historic Confederate ram Merrimac is engaging in its last battle, and as a result of the fight the Smithsonian Institution of Washington may get the historical relic.

Its first scrap occurred in 1862 near Norfolk, when it sank the Union frigate Cumberland.

The prow was found recently by William H. Logue, Jr., lying in obscurity in a junk yard in the 1000 block, Ashland avenue. He suggested it be given the Maryland Academy of Sciences.

When the academy doubted its authenticity and refused it the Maryland Historical society decided it would like to have it.

All this was going on without consulting Mrs. L. J. Horner, its owner, and now she has refused to allow it to be moved.

Logue is now trying to effect a compromise by having the Smithsonian institution in Washington take it. In the meantime both the Maryland Academy of Sciences and the Maryland Historical society are seeking to get the ram for exhibition as a relic of the Civil war and because of its interest as a part of the first armor-clad warship ever built. Francis C. Nicholas, dean of the academy, has written to the present owners asking that it be loaned to the academy for exhibition.

## Clothes for Men Will Be Plainer Next Year

Cedar Point, Ohio.—Men's apparel, plain this year, is going to be more so next year, according to delegates attending the annual sessions of the Merchant Tailors' Designers' association.

The designers, who are applying their ingenuity to styles for the spring and summer of 1925, say that the average man has never looked with favor on the "flashy" makeup.

They declare the thing that is causing them the most worry at the present time is the outing and particularly the golfing costume.

"We have gone the limit in the matter of the golfing outfit," said John R. Aikens of Detroit. "A new idea in the golf suit line excites much interest among the designers who have about worn themselves out thinking up this, that and the other thing."

## Only Woman Colonel in the United States

Miss Annie Pogue of Ashland, Ky., is the only woman who has ever been made a Kentucky colonel. She was a member of the staff of Governor Black years ago and because of her early efforts in behalf of suffrage she was awarded the Blue Grass emblem.



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## BRENNA LIVE AND DIE IN CATHEDRAL TOWER

Guardians of Bells in Mexico's Famous Church.

Mexico City.—Apart from the historic interest and architectural beauty of Mexico City's cathedral, the oldest in Latin America, there is a human interest attached to it.

At the western angle and between the main structure and the lofty tower there is a small set of apartments, in which the custodian of the bells and his family live. He is named Francisco de la Brena, forty-eight years old, and has five children.

With him lives his widowed mother, Emilia Vasquez de la Brena, who has had her home in the tower since the middle of the last century, and she has not descended to the great plaza facing the cathedral for 48 years. Brena himself descends but rarely to the sphere in which his fellow mortals live and has not done so for the last five years. All Brena's children were born in the tower and they never have been outside of it. The family's backyard, with its usual allotment of chickens, is located on the convex roof of the church.

The third generation of Brena now is being brought up in its unique surroundings. The little ones, like their father and grandfather, all doubtless look with disdain on life "on the level" and remain in their lofty refuge from where they may gaze on the incomparable Valley of Mexico and on Mexico City's fine Plaza de la Constitucion, always crowded with thousands of human beings, who appear like hungry ants in an external scamp for the necessities of life.

Brena, or the guardian of the bells, as he prefers to be styled, has seen many tragic happenings in the great plaza facing his abode and at the National palace, which runs at right angles to the cathedral.

He looked down on the multitude outside the palace in 1880 when General Diaz ceded to General Gonzales. He has seen the entry and departure from the palace of the Presidents of Mexico from Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, Porfirio Diaz, Manuel Gonzalez, General Diaz again, to Francisco Madero, Venustiano Carranza, down to Alvaro Obregon.

Brena has no intention of leaving his home. Born in the tower, he will die there. His little son, now three years old, will be his successor as "guardian of the bells."

## Mr. Jiggs Never Wins Less Than Second Prize



Mrs. Stuart H. Gilmore, daughter of Judge Samuel J. Graham of Washington, D. C., with her prize-winning sire, Marzill's Mr. Jiggs. The dog has competed all over the country and won 85 blue ribbons and 9 cups this year. Mr. Jiggs has yet to receive less than second prize.

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## Snaps a Safety Pin in Baby's Throat

Minneapolis.—An opened safety-pin which had been lodged in the throat of a nine-month-old boy for thirty-six hours, was removed by physicians at General Hospital. The child probably will recover.

When the babe was taken to the hospital an X-ray photograph showed that the point of the pin was sticking upward, which made removal more than ordinarily difficult. The extraction was accomplished by reaching into the throat with delicate instruments and closing the pin so the point was shielded by the safety catch.

## Plant Parasites Strip Leaves From Sycamores

Washington.—Sycamores in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia and Arkansas are being completely stripped of leaves by a heavy infection of sycamore blight, a fungus disease known as *gnomonia veneta*, according to reports received by the U. S. Department of Agriculture here. In Ohio the same plant parasite which is damaging the sycamore has also attacked the white oaks. Many valuable trees will be severely damaged if not completely killed by the epidemic. The cool, wet spring is thought to have favored the growth and spread of this sycamore blight.

## fear

Are you self-conscious about the impression you make on people? PERSONAL appearance has a lot to do with the way you feel. Clothes count, of course. But still there is one thing so many people overlook—something that at once brands them as either fastidious or careless—the teeth.

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