

SURE DEATH TO MOSQUITOES

Kerosene Oil Distributed Over Surface of Water Where They Breed Kills Insects.

The method of using kerosene to exterminate mosquitoes is explained by Popular Mechanics as follows:

"There are several ways by which war against mosquitoes can be successfully waged. The best method is to drain the swampy regions in which the insect breeds, but where this cannot be done a small quantity of kerosene oil will remedy the nuisance.

"When a thin film of oil is distributed over the surface of the water it seals up the young mosquitoes' breathing funnel, causing death. If people living in country places or those camping out, even where there is no stagnant water, will see that every open receptacle, tub, or barrel is treated once or twice a month with a spoonful of kerosene they will relieve themselves of much misery. When stagnant ponds are treated in this manner, the treatment being repeated once in every 20 days, in order to catch each succeeding generation, life in the neighborhood may be made bearable where once it was a burden.

"The people in an entire neighborhood may be miserable from one small breeding place, and they may be made correspondingly happy by the use of oil. It is estimated that an ounce of oil is enough for 15 square feet of surface."

TREES ARE TREASURES.

The Destruction of Many in This Country Has Made Remaining Old Ones Very Valuable.

Time changes all things, and time is changing the public and private estimate of trees in this country. When the pioneers came upon a vast wilderness the trees were as much opposed to their making comfortable livelihoods as were the copper-skinned savages. They made war upon the forest with more zeal than judgment; they slaughtered and laid waste, says the Pittsburg Post. With such beginnings of the people their constituted authorities have been slow to make laws for the protection of mere trees, though gradually the worth of the latter has come to be understood by many. Old trees soon will be held, as they should be, to be sacred, and young trees as something to be encouraged, fostered and trained in the way they should go. It is only a few years since Dr. Marshall, of this state, astonished the public by bringing suit against a telephone company for cutting off some stately trees because they interfered with the stringing or proper insulation of its wires. The courts sustained the doctor's contention that ancient trees are treasures. The telephone company will not soon forget the fact, for it was compelled to pay smartly for the destruction wrought.

TRAINS AT EDWARD'S COURT.

The King's Attempt at Dress Reform Leads to a Tilt with the Dressmakers.

King Edward undertook to reform the conditions at court by ordering that no trains should be worn by ladies attending the royal functions. This pleased the ladies, but horrified the dressmakers, who reap a rich harvest from the additional cost of the long trains of court dresses, says a London

paper. Then the king was besieged by influential personages, spurred on, and it is even hinted, commissioned by the dressmakers to secure a change of the orders. The royal mind was finally convinced that trains were necessary to the maintenance of a proper standard of court dignity, and the original order was canceled. The train-makers had triumphed. But the change in orders left many ladies trainless, they having eagerly welcomed the chance to lighten both the physical and the financial burdens of train-wearing. So another appeal has been made to the court to admit these trainless ones to the functions, and a special dispensation was granted in their cases. But hereafter woe betide the woman who presents herself to the lord chamberlain for admission to the royal presence bereft of a sweeping following of silk, satin, lace and the other costly materials which enter into the composition of those useless, cumbersome and bill-swelling features of ceremonial dress.

FRANCE PAID THE FIDDLER.

Germany Was Fully Reimbursed for the Cost of the War of 1871.

Up to March 31 last Great Britain had spent \$1,145,500,000 in conducting the war in South Africa. This sum is largely in excess of the cost to Germany of the Franco-Prussian war of 1871, for which, however, the nation was fully reimbursed by the vanquished nation. France paid as war indemnity about \$30,000,000 less than the British expenditure in the Boer conflict. Strictly speaking, that indemnity only amounted to 5,000,000,000 francs, or \$1,000,000,000, but Germany received about \$115,000,000 more from her vanquished foes in the form of a special contribution from the city of Paris, special taxes in France, and interest on the chief indemnity. Out of this all the expenses of the war were repaid. Some \$140,000,000 went to establish a pension fund for old soldiers, \$80,000,000 was spent on army reorganization, about \$90,000,000 on fortresses, \$42,500,000 on strategic railways, while \$30,000,000 were stored in gold as an imperial war chest in case of emergencies, and this immense treasure is still lying dead in the vaults of the Julius tower in the fortress of Spandau. But the interesting thing is that the Boer war has cost Great Britain far more than their final war of unification cost the Germans.

Akouphone Makes Deaf Hear. There are many smiling faces at the New York institution for the instruction of the deaf.

owing to successful experiments with a new apparatus which enables the deaf to hear. It is called the akouphone. The machine employs electric sound valves, which penetrate the deafest ear and have a reviving effect on the diseased parts of the ear. The machine does not increase the volume of sound, but makes it more penetrating. It is on the same principle as the Roentgen light rays, which do not produce a greater degree of light, but a kind of light which penetrates bodies hitherto impervious to it. The instrument is of no benefit to the small percentage of the deaf, says the Pittsburg Dispatch. With the partially deaf it does away with the eager straining to catch the sound of the human voice, and an ordinary conversation tone can be used.

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