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**HOW**

**WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY IS MADE BY PLANTS.**

One of the most important of natural processes, the secret of which has hitherto escaped the scientists, may be explained by recent experiments of Prof. E. C. C. Baly of the University of Liverpool, reported to the Royal Society of London, says Dr. E. E. Free, in his *Week's Science* (New York). This is photosynthesis, the way in which the leaves of plants manufacture all the food in the world. He writes:

"From the air these green leaves absorb a gas called carbon dioxide, the same gas that makes the bubbles in soda water. Traces of this gas are always present in the open air. The plant roots absorb water, which is then drawn up into the leaves. The leaves also absorb sunlight. These three things, sunlight, water and carbon dioxide gas, the leaves use to manufacture a variety of sugar which is raw material of plant growth as well as the material for producing the starch that plants like wheat store in the grain or that plants like the potato store in their tubers. All the animals that eat plants, as well as human beings who eat both these animals and the original plant foods, really get their living from the work of the green leaves. In spite of years of effort, scientists have never been able to duplicate this important process artificially. The living plant has always been needed to do the trick. Professor Baly himself has been at work for years, trying, always unsuccessfully, to duplicate the action. At last he believes that he has succeeded. A fine powder of the carbonate of nickel or of cobalt is suspended in water containing the carbon dioxide gas and is exposed to sunlight. Sugar is produced. This is probably not exactly the same way in which the living plant does the same trick, but it may serve. Professor Baly believes, as a starting point, from which to complete the full discovery of the plant's secret."—*Literary Digest*.

**How Some Species of**

**Fish Release Poison**

There are poisonous fish as well as poisonous reptiles, but the poison is not communicated by biting. On the contrary, the fish puncture their victims with spines. A study of the dorsal fin spine of the spiny dogfish reveals a groove containing a glandular structure which discharges secretion through a longitudinal pit. Further investigation discloses the presence of a more complex gland on the dorsal fin spines of the Port Jackson shark. The examination of the fossil fin spines of this family of fishes reveals the existence of a rough surface with either median or lateral glandular structures. The surface of the spine is otherwise covered with enamel which shows bosses or ridges running in a longitudinal direction. The venom of the weaver produces intense and agonizing pain.

**How a Drop Falls**

To watch a drop of water when it falls is to attempt to penetrate the secret of an obscure science, the law which governs moving fluids.

The experiment best showing the action of a falling drop may be made by letting a drop of milk fall into black coffee. When the drop falls a crater forms around it and little drops are projected from the edge of the crater. After it has increased in size and in thickness the crater lowers and widens its rolling bowl, while from the impact a liquid sphere, enveloped by the initial drop, collects at the top of the column. Then the column falls and disappears in the center of a circular ripple.

**How to Measure Star Heat**

Heat from the stars can be measured and one of the instruments used to do it contains fly wings in the shape of a tiny "vane" suspended from quartz fibers in a small mirror. When a ray of starlight, passing through a prism, is trained on the blackened wings, the vane turns the fiber and the amount of the turn is registered by the mirror that reflects another beam of light along a calibrated arc.

**How Cotton Cloth is Made**

Cotton cloth is made by removing the hairs from the seeds of the cotton plant, twisting these hairs into yarn, weaving the yarns into a fabric, and applying a stiffening mixture and ironing between large rollers. The nature of the fibers used and every one of the manufacturing processes affect the value of the fabric and should be considered when a cotton cloth is being purchased.

**How to Test Metals**

Whether a piece of jewelry is white gold or platinum may be determined by making a test for specific gravity. White gold would have a specific gravity of less than 18, and platinum would be about 21.

**How Bells are Tuned**

Church bells are tuned by chipping the edge until the proper note is obtained.

**Children's Hats Include Many Crochet Straws**



For little daughter's "spring bonnet" why not choose a cunning crocheted straw type? They are styled in such interesting tams and cloches as you see in this picture. For tinner tots bonnets adopt a flare of shirred georgette which frames the face.

**Ways of Wearing Gives Added Chic to the Scarf**



According to fashion's idea two scarfs are better than one providing they are nonchalantly tied, one about the shoulders, the other about the hips as pictured. Polka dots are tremendously popular in scarfdom.

**Mother Goose Prints Quaint for Children**



Nowadays little girls do not have to resort to their picture books for Mother Goose illustrations, for the reason that they are printed right on the very silks of which their tiny frocks are made. The petite dress in this picture is bordered with plain, for fashion is quite enthusiastic over the idea of combining solid color with print this season.

**Wash Silks Which Tailor Perfectly**



Not only is this lovely ensemble good to look upon, but the fact that it is made of a wash silk that tailors to satisfaction even in the hands of the amateur gives it an especial appeal to the home dressmaker. Antelope silk, so called because of a dash of mohair in its wave, comes in fascinating pastel colors.

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