

Aunt Julia's True Stories

THE LILY

On many pictures of saints you find the white lily. The lily has been used as a symbol of purity. Poets have been written about it from earliest times. How many kinds of lilies do you know? How do they differ?

The lily is easily grown. It grows best in cool places with wet soil. It grows from an underground stem. How do the leaves of the lily differ from those of the kamantigui? How are they like the leaves of the canna in shape? How do the veins run?

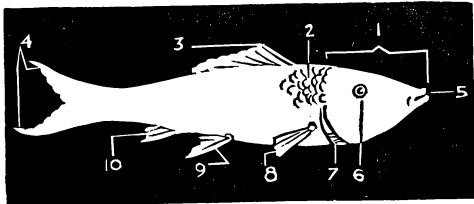
The flowers are not only beautiful but have a delicately sweet odor. They are very much used at processions and weddings and in churches on Easter Sunday.



MORE COMMON HERB FLOWERS

The Touch-me-not

The touch-me-not is a small herb usually about two feet in height. Because it does not require much care and bears attractive flowers, it is found in most gardens. The Tagalog name is "kamantigui." There are many varieties of kamantigui. The flowers differ only in color. Some are pure white, some



1. head; 2. scales; 3. dorsal fin; 4. caudal fin; 5. mouth; 6. eyes; 7. gills; 8. pectoral fin; 9. ventral; 10. anal fin.

STUDYING A LIVING FISH

You have studied the most common food fishes in the Philippines. You have read something about their flesh and how they are prepared for food.

Let us now study how the fish lives. Note how it moves, how it breathes, how it eats. Watch a fish in a glass container.

The body of the fish is shaped in such a way that it can move swiftly through the water. What do you do with your arms and legs in swimming? Now watch the fish. It uses the pectoral fins, which are paired, as you use your arms. The ventral fins do the work of your legs. Watch how the fish turns. Which fin helps it in turning? By observing the fish closely, you will be able to tell the use of each fin.

Look at each fin. It is composed of the hard pointed parts called spines and the soft fan-like parts called rays.

Try to catch a fish. Is it easy to catch one? Because the body is slimy, the fish can slip out of your hand easily.

A fish does not breathe through the nose as you do. On each side of the head is a hard covering. Under it you will find feathery things called gills. As the fish moves its mouth, water enters it and passes over the gills and out of the opening. The fish gets its air from this current of water.

What does the milkfish eat? Other fishes do not eat water plants. They feed upon the eggs and young of other small fish. Some fishes have small teeth while others have big and sharp ones that work like a saw.

pure pink or red, others white with pink spots. The petals are not arranged like those of ordinary flowers. The divisions of the petals are irregular. Look at a kamantigui flower. Compare it with a sampaguita. How do they differ in petal arrangement?

The fruit is a small oval-shaped pod filled with little seeds. When ripe, the pod bursts open at the slightest touch. The little seeds are scattered in all directions and soon grow into plants.