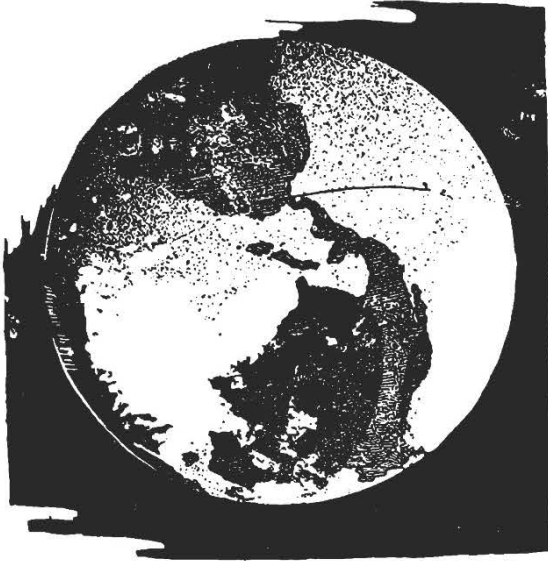


THIS EARTH OF OURS



THE WEATHER

Find out how our earth behaves.

Do you notice that sometimes you are good and pleasant but sometimes you are cross and naughty? In the same way, the earth is sometimes sunny while at other times it is cloudy or stormy.

This behavior of the earth is usually spoken of as the weather. When it is calm and neither too warm nor too cold, we say that the weather is fine. When it is rainy or stormy, we say that the weather is bad.

When speaking of the weather in a general way which is found in an entire country, the word climate is used. We say that the climate in northern Russia is cold and that in central Africa hot.

When we read a story or look at a movie, there are people who take different parts in the story. These persons are called characters. In the story of weather, there are certain characters each playing a different part. There are at least four important characters in the weather movie. They are the sun, earth, air, and water. Dust is a less important character.

The sun gives the earth all the heat it needs. The sun's rays have the greatest power when they are directly over a certain point. The heat at such time goes farther into the earth and then thrown off again into the air with great intensity. When the rays of the sun strike the earth slantingly, they have much less force.

AUNT JULIA'S

ANT WAYS

(Continued from the December issue)

You read in last month's article that ants live in very big families called colonies. A colony, composed of thousands of individuals, lives in a nest. The nest is built in light soil just below the surface of the ground. It consists of many little rooms connected by a network of tunnels, which are just like the corridors of a large building.

A community is founded by a queen that is about to lay eggs. As soon as she decides to make her home, she takes off her wings. She fears that, with wings, she might be tempted to leave the nest. Rid of her wings, she shuts herself up in a little chamber, meanwhile the eggs in her body are ripening. After some weeks of rest, she lays a small clutch of eggs. When the eggs hatch into grubs, she feeds them with her saliva. Because of lack of nourishment, these grubs develop slowly into small worker ants. For about seven months, the queen takes no food herself and feeds the first brood from her own body.

As soon as the workers are ready to work they creep out of the nest and gather food for the queen. It is now her time to rest and live as a true queen. The little workers enlarge the nest by building new



chambers and digging new tunnels. They also attend to all the needs of the queen.

The queen now does nothing but lay eggs. When resting, she is petted by the workers and licked by them with their feelers. When she takes a walk in the galleries, she is escorted by her subjects. As she walks, she lays her tiny white eggs. The workers

The work of the sun is affected by the earth itself. The earth is not always the same at different times and at different places. The shape of the earth, its movements around the sun, and the differences in elevations of its surface all cause differences in climate in different parts of the earth.

TRUE STORIES

pick up the eggs and place them in little chambers.

Among the workers are nurses. These nurses look after the eggs protecting them from bacteria by licking them with saliva every day. They sort the little ant babies or grubs according to size and place them in different chambers. When a chamber becomes too cool or too warm, the nurses carry the baby ants to other chambers. The babies are fed on liquid food thrown out from the nurses' stomach. They are also washed by the nurses just as little kittens are washed—by licking.

(Read some more interesting facts about ants in the February number of "The Young Citizen.")

STUDY TEST ON ANT WAYS

1. Choose the best answer:

- a. How many ants are there in a colony? (ten, hundreds, a few, thousands)
 - b. How many rooms are there in a nest? (a big room, a hall, many little rooms)
 - c. Who builds the colony? (a king, a worker, a queen)
 - d. What does the queen do when she is ready to start a colony?
 - walks about on the ground
 - flies about in the open air
 - removes her wings and stays in the nest
 - e. Who takes care of the first group of baby ants? (the king, the queen, the worker).
 - f. How long does the queen do her work all alone? (a month, a week, a year, seven months).
 - g. Read paragraphs 3 and 4 again and tell three things that the workers do for the queen.
 - e. Tell three things that the nurses do.
- Check your answers by rereading the story.

SUNDAY

(Continued from page 337)

was pictured as traveling by day in a ship across the waters of the sky and returning during the night through the kingdom of the dead. To the Egyptians, Ra was a symbol of life, death, and a new birth.

In India the sun was worshipped as the god Agni, who rode in a shining chariot drawn by blood-red horses. He was golden-haired and had a double face, seven tongues, and seven arms.

PLANTS ABOUT US



HOW SEEDS ARE SCATTERED

In last month's article, you read about the tricks performed by flowers to attract visitors like bees, butterflies, and moths. These insects help the flowers in forming seeds. The seeds, in turn, help the plant grow in great numbers and in different places. Let us see how the seeds perform their work.

The seeds are kept in the fruit. Men and animals eat the flesh of the fruit and throw away the seeds. These seeds grow into plants away from the mother plant.

Some seeds grow in pods. Sitao, batao, patani, cacawate keep their seeds in pods. When dry, the pods burst open and scatter the seeds. Name some more plants that keep their seeds in pods.

Many plants grow in the water or close to streams. The ripe seeds are carried by the water to distant places. Seeds of American plants in this way reach the coast of Europe. The coconut scatters its seed in this way. Name other plants the seeds of which are scattered by water.

Many plants are helped by the wind in scattering seeds. Such seeds have feathers or wings. They are carried by the wind very far and dropped on the ground.

Do you know the *amor seco*? It sticks on your clothes when you brush against it. When you reach home you pull the fruit and throw it away. What do you think will happen to it?

Below is a list of plants. Group them under separate headings according to the way in which their seeds are scattered.

Men and Animals Water Wind

guava, acacia, mangrove, kapok, nipa, coconut, kulot kulutan, duhat, bignay, cotton, santol, talahib.