

and the branches are piled criss-cross. Then the beavers pack their walls thick with mud and water plants.

Inside the house is a tidy smooth-walled room above water. This is a snug and comfortable living room. There is a cellar under the floor of the living room. This cellar is full of water nearly to the top. There is a hole on the floor of the living room through which the beavers pass when they go down cellar. From the cellar there is a passageway that leads into the water of the pond.

Of course an animal that builds dams and houses in the water and cuts down trees must have a special sort of body. Its front teeth as you already know are sharp and strong. He has a flat, wide, hairless paddle-shaped tail that is a help in swimming. The soft thick fur next his body is water-proof. His hind feet are shaped for swimming. His front paws are used as hands in working. His mouth and ears and nostrils are fitted with flaps that can be drawn so as to keep the water out.

These are some of the things about his body that make it possible for a beaver to be an expert builder of dams, some of which are strong enough to last a hundred years and more. As for his house it is suited to his needs and this wonderful rodent can be as comfortable in his home as you can be in yours.

### Mother Earth Awakens

As from a profound slumber,  
 Mother Earth has awoken:  
 She was asleep all summer,  
 In fields, meadows, and garden.  
 She was parched all summer through,  
 The tropic sun made her so.  
 Foliage green had turned its hue  
 And Mother Earth seemed blue.  
 Down the rain has fallen,  
 The scorched grass turned green.  
 Verdant the fields and garden  
 For Mother Earth has awoken.

By Miss Elisa Marquez  
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### PLANTS ABOUT US

#### OUR FOREST WEALTH

A great poet wrote that the forests were God's first temples. In the Philippines we are very fortunate in having vast areas of forests covering more than half of our land. As we also have churches we do not go to the forests to worship as the poet tries to teach us to do. Instead men seek wealth from these forests. If all the wood of our forest were sawn into lumber its value would easily reach twelve billion pesos.

But it is not this known product of our forests that we shall take up this month. Instead we shall try to see what other minor products come from our forests. And there are plenty of them. The most important is rubber and this we shall discuss today. Other minor forest products that we shall take up later on are: rattan, fuel, beeswax, guttapercha, lumbang, pili, drywoods and orchids, which are flowers. *Rubber:* Look about you in the classroom and note your personal use of rubber. Your erasers, your rubber shoes, your rubber bands, your raincoats are all made of this article. Outside of the school you meet with a thousand and one use of rubber. Try to name as many as you can. Now you must realize how important it could be for us if the rubber we import from outside

(Please turn to page 231)

