

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE SECTION

THIS EARTH OF OURS



LIGHTNING

You have read how our earth sometimes has bad weather. Then there is rain or a storm. During a storm have you ever closed your eyes and covered your ears as the lightning flashed and the thunder rolled?

Lightning is a form of electricity just like the current that gives us light at home. It was a man named Benjamin Franklin who proved lightning was electricity by sending up a kite made of silk and wire with a key at the end during a thunderstorm. Franklin touched the key and drew a spark which he proved to be electricity.

The light which we see when the electricity passes from heaven to earth is caused by the intense heat of friction which makes the air luminous. The great heat of the lightning makes the air through which it passes expand very quickly. This causes what we might call, "a hole in the air." The surrounding air rushes in to fill the space and this disturbance of the air makes the noise we call thunder.

AUNT JULIA'S

HOMES IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

THE CRICKET'S CAVE

When you hear a cricket singing somewhere far away. I know you say to yourself that he is idling his time instead of storing food like the busy ant. But the cricket is a happy creature and perhaps has a saying like ours in Tagalog, *Bahala na!* It is strange to think of this singing creature as living in a dark cave. This little black musician builds the doorway to his cave between two small stones. Inside there is a narrow tunnel where he lives. When the sun is bright Mr. Cricket stands at his doorway, his wings lifted a little and when he scrapes one against the other he makes a pleasant sound.

Mrs. Cricket does not always stay inside her cave. There is no music to her wings because she has other things to do. She goes out when the sun is high and searches for a soft, dry spot.



At the tip of her body is a long, slender thing that looks like a black needle. This is the tool she uses when she lays her eggs. She thrusts it into the soft ground and leaves some eggs hidden there. Then she rakes the place with her jaws, pats it until there is no mark to show where her eggs are hidden. Then she goes to her cave which is also a narrow tunnel, the doorway of which is between two stems of grass.