

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

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ROSAURO AND HIS

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radio and bit his finger nails in rage.

Just then the honk-honk of an automobile was heard. It was the doctor. Mrs. Mendoza hurriedly opened the door and showed Dr. Herrera in.

"Who is my patient this fine day?" this came from the doctor.

"Doctor no one is ill but I wish to consult you about Rosauero. There he is, cross and fretful," explained Mrs. Mendoza as she pointed to her son.

"Come, Rosauero," called the doctor. "and so you are my patient today."

The boy approached slowly and with bowed head.

"You have a keen appetite, haven't you, son?" inquired Dr. Herrera. "Of course, you like milk and vegetables."

"Doctor, mother always asks me to drink milk but I hate to do so. I hate milk. Can't I have coffee?"

"You are rather queer. You are not yet sick but you would soon be if you continue to ask for those things which are not good for you," Dr. Herrera warned.

Rosauero remained silent. He was probably thinking of the doctor's words.

"Have you any reason for not liking milk?" queried the doctor seriously.

In answer, the boy shook his head.

"Well, then, I know why you should not hate milk so

much. You love cakes and candy because they are sweet. But you must know that milk likewise contains some sugar just like that found in cakes. The cream or fat that is frozen into ice-cream is found in milk. You certainly want pearly teeth and glossy hair. Milk will give you materials for them. You don't want to be a weakling all your life. Drink milk, for it contains muscle builders. Milk, you must understand, is Nature's perfect food," explained the doctor lengthily.

The doctor paused awhile to give Rosauero time to think. After a few moments he continued "Like a good boy, I know you would not give your mother any more trouble in your choice of food. Eat whatever is given you by your mother for she knows just what you need."

Turning to Mrs. Mendoza he declared, "In the future I am sure your boy will like his glass of milk. He has promised to do away with his bad food habits."

"Haven't you, Rosauero?" he asked as he stroke the boy's hair.

"Yes, doctor, I'll begin right now," responded Rosauero as he reached for his glass of milk from his mother. "Will this make me an athlete?"

"Of course, milk will, for you will have a strong physical make-up."

Dr. Herrera got up and prepared to go. Rosauero stood, too, and very quickly ran to the door to open it for the doctor. Mrs.

OUR FOREST WEALTH

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could come from our own forests.

Have you ever seen a rubber tree? There are some to be found in the Mehan Gardens. Perhaps some of you have gathered the young buds and made toy balloons out of them.

Rubber is the milky substance that comes from the trunk and branches of the tree. At the age of four or five years a rubber tree is lightly tapped or a cut is made along the bark. The milky substance called latex flows out into cups and then this is left to thicken or coagulate. In twenty-four hours the rubber forms into a spongy mass like thickened sour milk, and floats on the water from which it has completely separated. This mass of rubber is then squeezed to extract the water which process should be thoroughly done to prevent the rubber from decaying. Then these thin sheets of rubber are hung up to dry in a room where several fires have been built. After two or three days the rubber is ready for market.

This raw rubber then goes to different factories to be made into various articles that you now use. Is it not strange to think that this thin red rubber band around your books came out of the deep forest far, far from you?

Mendoza watched her son and with a contented smile thanked the doctor for the changed attitude of Rosauero.