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Mother Nature is most impartial in protecting her creatures, giving each single bird or fish or animal the weapons best fitted to its surroundings and habits, without regard to size or apparent importance in the beast scale, She has no favorites. Man's chief safeguard, next to his mind,4s hearing. His ears are always open, and even when he sleeps the brain is listening for the slightest note of warning.

Mother Nature has exquisite devices, too, for fitting his body to the work he has in hand. When a boy with soft white hands begins to dig the garden in spring, she takes an interest in him at once. As he hoes and spades she marks the spots upon his palms and fingers that need extra covering, and blisters rise upon these places in an hour. The boy generally thinks it a painful process and a wholly needless one, but Nature knows what she is about. Presently the hands are plastered with callouses and he is prepared to dig as long as he wishes with perfect comfort. These hard little pads are merely loans, however. When the garden is made and the spade and hoe put by, Nature carefully peels off the pads and takes them back into her laboratory, to be given to some other gardener.

She is very watchful, and keeps an account with every living creature in the same way. This protective bureau of hers is one of the best places to begin learning her methods. As soon as one has found out what means a frog or a turtle has for dealing with enemies, further ways of studying the creature will suggest themselves. The sculpin, for instances, is a humble member of the world of sea fishes. Many people consider it not worth eating. Yet upon Nature's books it has as good a credit balance as an elephant or an eagle.

Charles F. Holder tells in the Scientific American of some experiments recently with sculpins taken from the Pacific ocean. When he lifted them from their briny home they were mottled in white and gray, black and brown, matching their surroundings so exactly that they could be distinguished only by their gemlike eyes. These were their glory, lighting up like topaz when the sunlight touched them. Mr. Holder put his captives into a tank with a bottom of white sand. There was nothing whatever for the sculpins to hide behind and they became uneasy at once. For some minutes they swam about restlessly, hunting shelter, and seeming well aware that they were in danger. When they found how bare the tank was a beautiful change took place. Gradually they migration to the United States last faded, the dark spots becoming first year was larger than in any previous brown, then gray, then very light gray. At length they seemed to melt into the sand, becoming less visible, until an hour or so after they had been placed in the tank they were so indistinct as to be mistaken for stones at a distance of a few feet. They were unable to match the pure white of the sand, getting no nearer than a dirty gray, but their disguise was a perfect success. When they were placed upon black bottom they changed to the new bue in the same time, and with bottoms of still other colors it was the same.

Mr. Holder found through observation and reading that the fish had no more to do with its transformation than our gardening boy had to do with his callouses. Nature was looking after her own. The sculpin's skin is made up of layer upon layer of different colors. Our friends the scientistswho have been here with long names -call it "chromatic function." They have not been able to sound all of its mysteries, but they have learned that the sculpin's jeweled eye plays an important part in the matter. A blind sculpin remains one unchanging color wherever it lives, but those that have eyesight, being capable of seeing their surroundings, can change to suit them. The alert eye telegraphs its latest news along the nerves to the sensitive skin layers,-"chromatophores," the scientists call them-and these delicate mechanisms soon paint the sculpin a bue that will give it protection. Their grotesque forms and fantastic horns and 'feelers" are of further aid in imitating the seaweed in their ocean home.

The sculpins of the Atlantic seaboard are seldom eaten, for they are most repulsive at first sight. The sculpin of the Pacific is in better favor, however, and as a consequence is caught and used for food by thousands of peoplea rather undesirable social standing at best.-Chicago Record.

NOT SUITED FOR FARMERS.

Few of the Present Day Immigrants Capable of Doing Farm Work. Between the years 1830 and 1890 10, 000,000 of the 13,000,000 immigrants who came into the United States were natives of Great Britain or of Germany, and the number of Scandingvians was nearly 1,000,000. The great majority of these newcomers, especially those from Germany, Norway and Sweden, were farmers whose destination was the west. The term the west, as understood by immigrants, meant at one time the western countries of New York and Pennsylvania. later the states of what is now called the middle west, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois; then the trans-Mississippi states of Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas and, finally, the northwestern states. to which, prior to 1895, most of the new immigrants went.

In the last few years, notwithstanding the prosperous condition of American manufactures, the large harvests and liberal prices for cereals and live stocks, there has been a marked falling off in the immigration of farmers to the United States and a decided increase in the number of immigrants seeking homes in the large cities and manufacturing towns. The official figures of the calendar year of 1900 have not yet made their appearance, but the total number of immigrants will not befar from 475,000, and of this number more than 100,000 were from Austria-Hungary, another 100,000 from Italy and another 100,000 from Russia and the Polish provinces of Germany, while Geat Britain furnished less than 50,000, of which number 40,000 were from Ireland. These new immigrants seek homes and employment in the

large cities. The fertility and productiveness of American farms are as great as and in some cases greater than they were many years ago. The means of transportation have been vastly improved and the market of demand is decidedly larger than it ever was before. But the conditions for the purchase of land are no longer so favorable. The most eligible government lands for free homesteads have been disposed The railroad grants which included alternate parcels along the line of the roads have been sold and in most cases occupied. No state, except in the southwest, where the climate conditions are not generally such as to attract European farmers, is under the necessity of offering inducements to immigants, and the latter, no longer recruited from the farming class on the European continent and in Ireland. come chiefly from large European cities in which the population has become congested or in which the rate of pay to mechanics has been forced down by competition or the use of new mechanical appliances.

There is a constant and increasing demand for mill hands and artisans thoroughout the United States, and it is to some extent supplied by new im migration. The three countries which now furnish the largest share of immigration, Austria, Russia and Italy, have comparatively little in common with the United States in the way of language, customs, historical tradition or the forms of government. There are no longer in Russia or Austria persecutions which would explain a wholesale exodus of the inhabitants of various districts, as was the case ten and fifteen years ago. The economic condition of Italy is rather better now than it was at the time when Italian immigation to the United States began to be large, and the increase of the immigration from these countries can, therefore, be explained only upon the ground that the demand for such labor as their immigrants have to offer is growing in the United States. The falling off of German immigration is explained by the fact that Germany is ceasing to be an agricultural and is becoming a manufacturing country. The total imyear since 1893.-New York Sun.

Experience in a Bog. While traveling in Cornwall, in 1891, the Rev. S. Baring-Gould came near being overwhelmed in a bog. He and his companion got lost, and at dusk found themselves in a bog called Redmire. Six bullocks had already been lost there that year. Mr. Baring-Gould's adventure is related in his Book of the West."

"All at once I sank above my waist, and was being sucked father down. I cried to my companion, but in the darkness he could not see me, and had he seen me he could have done nothing for me. The water finally reached my

armpits. "Happily I had a stout bamboo, ome six feet long, and I placed this athwart the surface and held it with my arms as far expanded as possible. By jerks I succeded in gradually lifting myself and throwing my body forward, till finally I was able to cast myself at full length on the surface. The suction had been so great as to tear my leather gaiters off my legs.

"I lay at full length, gasping for nearly a quarter of an bour before I had breath and strength to advance, and then wormed myself along on my breast till I reached dry land. My companion, it turned out, had had a similar experience."-Youth's Companion.

Where H s Test Failed. Sir William Harcourt has pleaded guilty to absent-mindedness and tells story against himself. He suspected a man servant of stealing money and at last resolved to set a trap. Taking handful of gold coins, he laid them down on his writing desk and went out Presently he sent this servant to the room to fetch some article. When John had returned he promptly went to his room to see if the coins had been touched. On the table, in the place where he had left them, were gold coins. But were there as many as he had left? He did not know, for he had neglected to count them before he had laid them down. "By this incident, you see," said Sir William, in telling the story, "that I was born to be chancellor of the exchequer."

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