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SAWFLIES ARE ALL FEMALES

That is Not Quite True But Nearly so as Males are Scarce Among Them

TORONTO, Aug. 13.—In at least one species of insects, the females appear to be quite capable of reproducing themselves more or less indefinitely. This is the outcome of researches performed by A. D. Peacock, of Armstrong College, Newcastle, who addressed zoologists at the British Association. Mr. Peacock has found that the sawfly, common in Canada and in England, will reproduce asexually, but that the new insects are nearly all females. Of 600 fatherless individuals which were bred in the laboratory in this way, all but four were females. In the case of the anomalous four eggs, two received the stimulation necessary to start division by immersion in a 2 per cent solution of epsom salts; one was placed in warm water; one started to grow spontaneously. The presence of the males is by no means indispensable for the production of young insects, the investigations show. "Male sexual instincts are not so potent as in other species," Mr. Peacock explained. "The females ignore the males." When the scientist finally saw what he thought was a genuine pairing, he traced the development of 22 eggs which were laid subsequently. Of these, 19 pupae were reared, and 17 adult females were derived. This strange result led to the belief that the fertilization in this case must have been similar to the parthenogenetic or asexual reproduction, which had previously been observed.

Females Produced

"There are three possible explanations for the result in this case," the zoologist pointed out. "There may have been ineffective pairing, the eggs may not have been fertilized, or there may have been a chromosome complex, if the eggs were fertilized, which permitted the production of females only." This observation has been made by other workers in the case of the insect *Drosophila*, where the experimenters were forced to conclude that they had produced females and super-females, rather than males and females.

Mr. Peacock's research is further confirmation of the belief



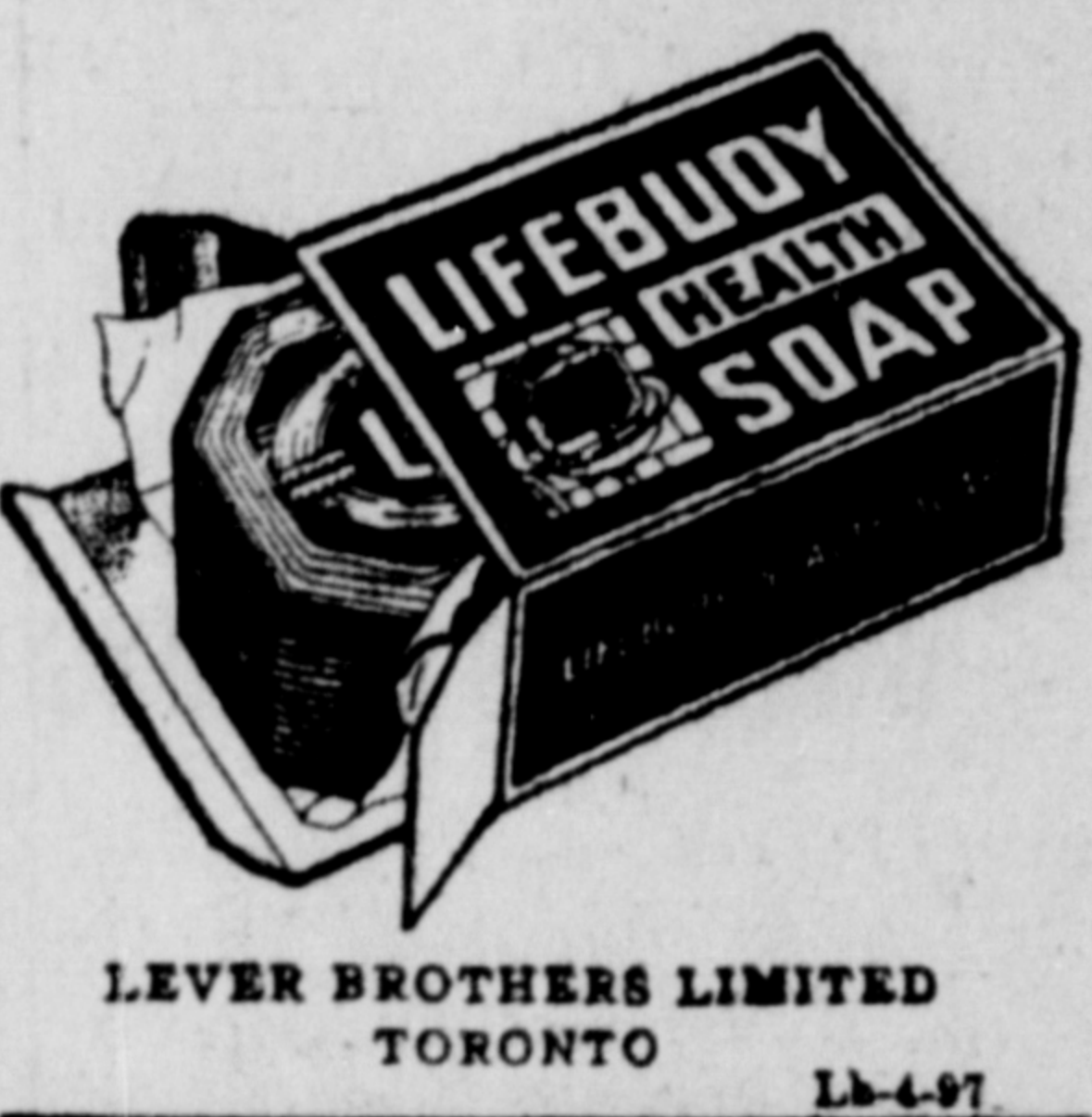
Look! Mother

KIDDIES can't help getting dirty. Curious little hands touch anything—germ-laden though it may be. Chubby hands and knees are always being scratched, bruised and infected.

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that many types of reproduction other than the orthodox method, are possible in the case of the sawflies, but in summing up the peculiar case of preponderance of females, where pairing had been observed, he said: "In rare, and probable unnatural pairing, the female dispenses with fertilization, or its 'femaleness' suffices to destroy the 'maleness' introduced by the spermatozoa."

LECTURE ALMOST SENDS REPORTER BUGS

Turns in Report But Does Not Know What It is all About

TORONTO, Aug. 13.—That contributions to the scientific programme of the British Association are often more interesting than is popularly supposed has been the experience of many of the press reporters and non-scientific minded citizens who have attended the meetings. Attracted by the title of a paper in the Zoology section, a pressman joined the audience and obtained the following verbatim report of the proceedings:

"Grylloblatta, a remarkable synthetic genus of Orthopteroidea insects discovered in 1913, combines characters of most of the lower pterygot orders with certain features suggestive of the Thysanura. Recently a few live specimens have been obtained and preliminary studies of the internal organs made.

Resembling a stone-fly larva in general appearance and in the structure of the head capsule, thoracic nota and slender jointed cerci, it approaches the cockroaches and termites in the mouth-parts, legs, cerci and genitalia, but has a prominent exerted ovipositor like that of a long-horned grasshopper, and possesses also certain characters suggestive of Mantids, Phasmids, Embiids and Dermapters (earwigs). Orthopteroidea also is the presence of styli throughout life stages of the female, but the division of the sternum of the 9th abdominal segment of the male, which bears the styli, into median sternite and lateral styligerous coxites, is a primitive feature suggestive of certain Thysanura. (applause) Another Thysanuroidea character is the apparent independence of the tracheal systems arising from each abdominal spiracle, and the absence of muscles connected with the latter is also noteworthy. The general features of the internal anatomy, which have been only partly worked out, confirm our conclusions as to the systematic positions of Grylloblatta as based on the study of its external structure." (Loud and continued applause).

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(continued from page 1)

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Yours truly, John Smith

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