

1863. Cotton, unlike most crops, has had favorable weather during July, and the yields are expected to be above average in all states except in Virginia and the Carolinas.

SUCCESSFUL observation of the Perseid meteors on the nights of August 11 and 12 and August 12 and 13 has been reported by Professor C. P. Olivier, of the Flower Observatory of the University of Pennsylvania. Observing at Shadwell, Va., he reports that cloudiness and moonlight on the first night of the Perseid shower made the meteor watch difficult. Forty-seven meteors were seen, however. Thirty-four of these were in the Perseid group. The next night observing conditions were much better and a total of 72 meteor streaks was seen. Fifty of these were Perseid in origin. One especially fine sporadic meteor crossed nearly half the sky, disappearing and reappearing as it neared the end of its path. One brilliant Perseid meteor left a flaming train which lasted 10 seconds. Other bright Perseids, mostly red in color, left sparks as well as trains. The average Perseid meteor was yellow in color, as usual, and nearly all had trains of brief duration.

REPORTS received by the U. S. Public Health Service show an increase in infantile paralysis cases, the total number for the country reaching 142 during the week of August 1. The increase is chiefly due to sporadic cases in various parts of the country, rather than to an increase of the outbreak in the Southern states. These cases are seen as part of the usual seasonal rise and are not con-

sidered a result of the earlier outbreak in the South. Of the Southern states chiefly affected, Tennessee had an increase, with 26 cases for the week, but Alabama with 29, and Mississippi with 5, showed decreases over the previous week. California reported 16 cases, Illinois 12 and New York 6, with from 3 to 6 each reported in Minnesota, North Dakota and Nebraska.

DETAILS of a mild case of bubonic plague occurring in an eleven-year-old lad living in Monterey County, Calif., have been received at the U. S. Public Health Service from Dr. Harlin L. Wynns, of the California State Health Department. This is the third human case of plague reported in the United States thus far this year, one of the others also occurring in California, while the third was near Beaver, Utah. Plague has been ever-present in the rodent population in California since an outbreak of human plague occurred in San Francisco early in this century. The disease is transmitted from rats or other rodents by fleas. Plague-infected ground-squirrels have been found as far east as Montana and Utah and these animals are a potential source of danger.

LITTLE mentioned among the drought hazards to cattle is the possibility of the animals eating the hardy Sudan grass, cane or any kind of grain sorghum which, although stunted in growth by the dry weather, will stay green long after the normal feed grasses have withered. The Department of Agriculture reports that in eating these plants live stock may consume a deadly dose of hydrocyanic or prussic acid, present in the plants.



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