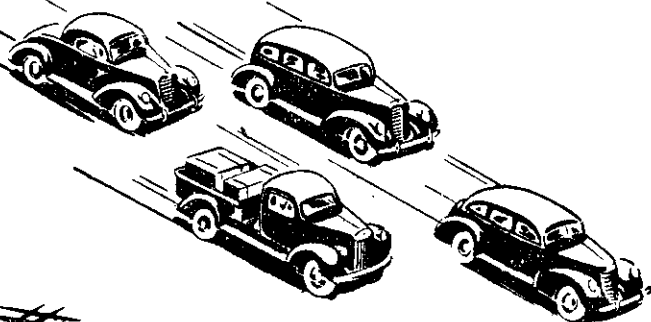
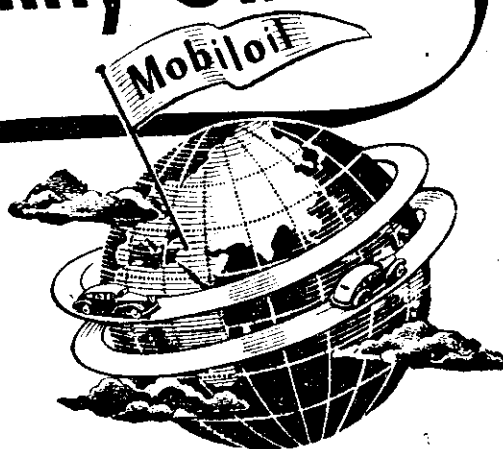


Mobiloil



Always the world's
Quality Oil



More fluid when cold,
better body when hot,
Mobiloil gives better
protection — saves in
petrol and repairs.



VACUUM OIL COMPANY PTY. LTD.

(INC. IN AUST.)

2166

KATHERINE MANSFIELD

(continued from previous page)

As Mrs. Kember came up close she looked, in her waterproof bathing cap, with her sleepy face lifted above the water, just her face touching, like a horrible caricature of her husband.

Yes—and the husband had already frightened the girl by flirting with her. The inexperienced girl was having her first dim impression of the campaigning strength, the ruthlessness of the married.

Katherine Mansfield's contribution to the writing of short stories came at a time when the traditional methods had become wearisome. And if her subjects were small and depended upon catching some private cry of ecstasy, loneliness, fear, the handling of her stories was bold. She had the art of sliding through the thoughts and day-dreams of her characters, of moving backwards and forwards in time as our minds do; and, unlike most of what is called the "stream of consciousness" school, she treated this dramatically and gracefully. Her writing changes its landscapes as noiselessly as they are changed in our minds and with the alacrity of Nature. She catches the disparity of thought and action: she might be called the artist of

disparity. Katherine Mansfield liquefied the short story. She broke up many of its formal conventions. She cut out the introductions, the ways and means that are simply barriers. She cut across-country, following a line of her own which once seemed very erratic but which was really the direct line. She caught how people talk—that is one important link with the later generation—and she moved as quickly as life itself. She learned how a spoken sentence may start the speaker's mind on to thoughts that are absurdly, poetically, strangely at variance with what he or she has said. She caught human lives as they dissolve and form again and she had the power of dissolving and reassembling our many selves, in a few vivid and dramatic lines.

Katherine Mansfield belonged to the arty generation which isolated private sensibility, and detached private life from the life of its times. This was partly due to the appalling mass pressure of the first world war; it was a protest against the clumsy use and slaughter of the masses, the denial of human personality which that war instituted. One finds her shuddering, retreating protest, repeated in louder, more violent and

(continued on next page)

Advice on Health (No. 265)

BUTTERFLIES' WINGS

(Written for "The Listener" by DR. MURIEL BELL, Nutritionist to the Health Department)

READERS may recall an item in the press about a year ago in which Professor Oliphant, the physicist who was concerned with atomic research, stated that if scientists were not allowed to have a voice in the use of scientific discoveries related to atomic energy they would turn to the study of butterflies' wings. Perhaps the majority of readers would regard this as a mere flight of academic fancy, picturing the professor going out with a butterfly-net to retreat from the entanglements of atomic energy. However, those who have been following the researches of chemistry in the field of nutrition read into it another meaning, perhaps that Professor Oliphant would turn to a study of the prevention of disease rather than continue with research into weapons that would destroy mankind.

For, during the last few years, there have been rather significant studies of the chemistry of the pigments in the wings of butterflies, the importance of these pigments in the nutrition of bacteria and of animals, and latterly, their significance in human nutrition and the cure of certain deficiency diseases.

Fresh Discoveries

From a chemical jig-saw puzzle there has gradually come at least a portion of a picture; we have had to wrestle with such varying terms as "vitamin Bc," "vitamin M," the "Lactobacillus casei factor," "folic acid," and "xanthopterin" as the parts of the jig-saw puzzle. "Vitamin Bc" is that substance which prevents a certain type of anaemia found in chicks; "vitamin M" prevents a particular variety of blood disease found in monkeys; the "Lactobacillus casei factor" is necessary for the growth of certain organisms in cheese; "folic acid" is a substance (found in spinach leaves)

that enhances the growth of a particular kind of streptococcus; "xanthopterin" is the yellow pigment found in the wings of the brimstone butterfly, a pigment which cures anaemia in trout and also other blood disorders in animals when their dietary is deficient.

A band of chemists in one of the commercial firms has put all this together and found that there are common denominators in all these substances. They have reasoned that "folic acid" is a complex substance containing a number of chemical groups. They have argued that they can put these chemical groups together to make a substance which may be useful in certain blood diseases in man. And so it has come about that still another vitamin of the B-complex has been synthesised, and that part of the compound so formed contains the same chemical substance as is found in the yellow pigment in butterflies' wings.

Uses for New Vitamin

The new compound is showing promise of being effective in the treatment of certain diseases in man, diseases where through absence of sufficient "folic acid" the bone marrow has not been able to function properly in producing cells to replenish the blood, or where the intestine has not been able to exercise its full capacity to absorb foodstuffs. A number of diseases which were all along thought to be deficiency diseases have been reported as responding to this new vitamin.

The moral of this tale is that the proper study of mankind is not always man. A great deal can be learned from studying the humblest organism, be it bacterium or butterfly; for man is part of a universe in which substances which he requires for his blood cells are no less needed by the butterfly for its ornamentation or the bird for the colour of its feathers.