however, and pressed into biscuits, with the addition of a little meat and vegetables, a good food for cats and dogs might be made on the plan of the biscuit well known to dog fanciers. Here is a chance for the S. P. C. A., which has assumed in this city a paternal care for cats and dogs, suppressed the vile dogcatcher, and collared, if it has not yet belled, the cat. It might compound and patent a cicada biscuit and extend to it the power of its recommendation.

WANTED, A USE FOR CICADAS. The seventeen-year locust, or cicada, which is just now rising in countless. swarms over certain areas in the State, may be considered in the light of retribution for the destruction of birds and of such small burrowing beasts as the mole. A year or so ago a little rodent called the vole increased so enormously in the north of Britain, owing to the destruction of hawks and owls and weasels, creatures that interfered with that "sacred bird" of the British upper classes, the pheasant, that crops were ruined and farmers were unable to pay their rents. The seventeen-year cicada is upon us in its myriads because of a similar interference with the balance of nature. Animals and birds that feed on the creature during its long existence under ground, where it sucks the juices of trees through the rootlets, or when crawling up the tree trunks just before shedding its cuirass and getting wings to fly, or before pairing and laying its eggs, have been so harried with guns, traps, and poison that Nature has exercised its own poetical justice and delivered up vegetation to the assaults of the fly above and below the surface of the ground. Unlike the May or June bug, which ruins forests and crops in Europe with its powerful jaws, the cicada does not appear to consume the green leaf in its mature state. The two insects are alike their underground conditions, the in June bug living at least three years attached to roots and sucking the sap; but the cicada is less destructive when it emerges from the earth, and, breaking through its chrysalis, takes to the air. The destruction of foliage which is so marked wherever the seventeen-year variety appears is more apparent than real; it proceeds mainly, if not entirely, from the female, which bores longish slits in the outer twigs of trees and deposits therein her eggs. The twigs wither in consequence, and after turning brown fall to the earth, thus enabling the little larvae when they hatch to burrow in the ground. In many sections of the State, notably parts of Staten and Long Islands and along the Hudson, the trees look as if a flame had passed among the branches, searing the outer twigs. This is the work of the big female of the "harvest fly," "locust," or cicada. Though not so serious a plague as the European June bug, it is quite bad enough to suggest the necessity of a In Belgium and some parts of cure. Germany it has been long a practice to make organized campaigns against this beetle; rewards are paid in Belgium and France for its destruction; school children are encouraged to devote themselves to its pursuit, and a small price per pound is given for the beetles as a food for poultry. But these attempts are only partially effective. The June bug, however, may soon become valuable in another way and offset the damage it does in an unexpected fashion. Some time ago a Swiss farmer undertook to kill the beetles he had collected by passing them under a millstone, having found that neither fire nor water killed them all effectually. The groundup mass fell into a cask and was for-A few months later the cask gotten. was found to contain a light-colored oil which possessed remarkable qualities for lubricating machinery and for burning in lamps. Without intending it, this man struck oil. It is now proposed to make the collection of beetles a profitable thing and cause them to pay with their fat the damage they do to every green blade that meets their evening flight.

Our cicada, unfortunately, is not the plump, oily thing that will yield many

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gallens of oil to the ton, but it may be found to have some use if the inventive mind plays upon its possibilities. Nervous people who become exasperated by its ceaseless drone during the hottest part of the day will hail with savage delight any discovery that may allow them to "get even" with an insect that adds to the injury of our ornamental woodlands the insult of a noise peculiar ly shrill and mechanical. There are people who keep cicadas in cages and asl them to sound their rattles, notably Spaniards; but it is evident that Span iards can never suffer from insomnia o dyspepsia; they must lack American nerves. To stir them properly they need builfights, and to keep them from sleep ing all day they require cicadas in thei darkened rooms to "stab the noon silenc with a sharp alarm."

It has been observed that when th ,t cicadas first arrive the domestic cat re đ gards them with almost as much be У nignity as it does a bat, a devil's darnin 3. needle, or a flying cockroach, and i à, cracks them as a squirrel cracks a pea ĸ nut. But the cat is a disdainful anima У that soon wearles if the chase is mad 5too easy. The second day its jaded at S petite refuses cicadas; yet it will go o S eating crickets, for instance, althoug Ľcrickets are distinctly injurious to it whe)cracked in large numbers. ŕ.'

d If cicadas were collected in quantitie

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