

Natural History.

The humming-bird, according to a recent International News dispatch, has been studied by Dr. Winslow Tyler of the Smithsonian Institution. The doctor, after a difficult investigation, reports:

"Most accomplished of all flying things is the lovely, fragile hummingbird, for the tiny creature has the amazing ability to fly backward. This achievement has often been reported and questioned as impossible, but recent photographic technique has shown that the reverse flight is an actuality. Leaving a perch at seven-hundredths of a second, it can stand almost still in the air with wings beating the air about 55 strokes per second.

"However, so fragile and small is the bird that often it is impaled on thorns, or becomes entangled in thistles or spiderwebs. One instance is recorded where a hummingbird was attacked and bested by a dragonfly.

"The bird has an almost insatiable taste for sweets, but a good part of its food consists of insects. Originally it was exclusively an insect eater, living on those varieties which inhabit flowers. This environment gave the bird its sweet tooth."

Hummingbird-itis at N.D.

If the doctor should visit Notre Dame he would find quite a few hummingbirds here. They are all over the campus, not restricted to any section or hall. The following types could qualify for observation:

1. The student who is flying backward spiritually, away from God because of sin.
2. The student who goes in for the soft life, with an exclusive diet of sweets and ease; who avoids any irksome tasks or denial and heads straight for the over-stuffed chair or bed and some vapid radio program, or latest popular, if not sensational, magazine.
3. The student who is entangled in some spider-web of sin, whether due to a bad habit or an occasion of sin. Weakened by a steady diet of sweets, unable to break out of the web by his own efforts, he becomes discouraged, critical, bitter and gives up.

The cure for hummingbird-itis is: First, the state of grace, advancing toward and with God; second, follow your Eucharistic Calendar; third, nourish yourself daily on the Body and Blood of Christ, the Food that will make you strong.

"Without Me, you can do nothing," said Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS: Deceased. Grandmother of E. MacDevitt (B-P); Grandmother of Ed Malone (Sor) Mr. Dennis Coakley; Mrs. Mary Holmes. Ill: Grandfather of Wm. Haldron (Z); Friend of Joe Mulcrone; Mrs. Miner. 2 Special Intentions.

