

MAKING RAIN WITH ROCKETS

Experiments Tried With Considerable Success on a Coffee Plantation in Southern India.

Experiments made to ascertain whether the discharge of explosives during cloudy weather produces rainfall are described in a letter from James Stanes.

"Some years ago," he says, "an experiment was tried in the Cuddapah district of southern India with considerable success. I am part owner of an estate in the Seramully hills, which is situated in a particularly dry zone. For several seasons poor coffee crops withered away from lack of rain during July and August.

"When I was visiting the estate in July, 1905, I noticed that heavy clouds gathered every afternoon and I thought that if we had been in a position to fire explosive rockets from the highest peak of the hills, about 4,500 feet, a shower of rain might have been produced.

"I therefore arranged to have a supply of rockets kept on the estate and fired off every afternoon at the rate of one rocket every five minutes, but only when the condition of the atmosphere was such that heavy rain threatened on all sides.

"Whether rain has fallen in response to these explosives or not the fact remains that ever since we first tried the experiment we have been fortunate enough to catch sufficient moisture to enable the crops to survive the drought."

Firing into the clouds with the object of causing rain was practiced for several years in southern Germany, Switzerland and France, but seems to have been abandoned some time ago. The idea was to protect the vineyards and other cultivations from damage by hailstones, it being thought that by the discharge of large guns rain would fall and that the danger from hailstorms would be averted.—London Daily Mail.

REAL MADAME "SANS-GENE"

Story of Adventurous Career of Marie Therese Figueur in the French Army.

Everyone knows the washerwoman who was so familiar with Napoleon in Victorien Sardou's play, "Madame Sans-Genie," but the real "Sans-Genie" who lived at that time was a dragoon in one of the great Corsican armies and spent twenty years in camps and barracks, in campaigns and battles over Europe. In the Musee de L'Armee in Paris a special case has just been installed inside which stands her equestrian statue.

Her real name was Marie Therese Figueur and she was born in Burgundy in 1774. When nineteen, at the end of the reign of terror, she enrolled in a cavalry regiment commanded by one of her uncles and soon acquired the nickname of "Sans-Genie."

Mme. Sans-Genie fought in Germany with the French and Bavarian armies, charged at Koenigsberg, took part in the siege of Toulon, was in the Italian, Spanish and Austrian campaigns and fought at Austerlitz and in Russia. During the Hundred Days the emperor conferred the Legion of Honor upon her and she charged at Waterloo for the last time.

With the Restoration she left the army to get married. She was then thirty-nine. In the course of her marital career Sans-Genie had five horses shot under her and was wounded eight times in different engagements. She died in hospital in 1861.

Both Delighted. Two elderly gentlemen, both decently clothed in sober black, were sitting side by side in a Euclid plane car, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Each was reading a morning paper. Suddenly one of the men uttered an exclamation of pleasure and the other peered at him over his glasses.

"I see here," explained the first with a beaming face, "that Mr. B., who died last week, has left his entire fortune to various charitable enterprises. This will be a surprise to his many relatives. It is to me a glad surprise in my case, for I am the pastor of a church to which he has left \$10,000."

The second man looked at the article and his face, too, became wreathed in smiles. "God bless him!" he exclaimed heartily. "All to charitable institutions in spite of his relatives! Ah, sir, I like to see money left like that. I do, indeed!"

"Are you also a clergyman?" "No, sir, I am a lawyer."

The Ghost Walked. The mistake is a that one's troubles end with death was set aside in Lawrence v. Washburn Cut Glass Company 21 Wash. Dec. No. 13 (Adv. sheets), in which the supreme court of Washington first announced that the defendant corporation "gave up the ghost." How it died is not fully apparent, but having yielded its spirit to the one who made it, it still retained its worldly cares, for in the next sentence the court said: "But that did not deliver it from the burden of its contracts."

Evidently, in this case, the ghost walked, being "in torment." Who shall henceforth as that corporations have no souls?—Case and Comment.

DEEP MYSTERY OF THE LAW

Man Who Won't Support Family Is Imprisoned and Wife Really Pays Penalty.

Mysteries, far beyond the comprehension of the average mortal, are constantly revealed in the law and its administration. The other day a much-harassed woman appeared in a Boston court and complained to the judge that her husband refused to support their two small children. She could get along without him, she said, but she demanded that he be compelled to go to work and help support his offspring. Her story was corroborated by witnesses.

So the judge found the man guilty and sentenced him to one year in the house of correction.

Here was what seems on the surface to be an easy problem. A husband and father, either through disinclination or through inability to find work, is brought into court on a charge of non-support. In order to relieve the situation, he is sent to the house of correction, where he will be kept at work. That he is not able to send his pay envelope home to his family every Saturday night—because there is no pay envelope in such cases—is, in the eye of the law, a minor circumstance. The main thing seems to be that the man has been guilty of an offense and that he is punished for it. He is punished, but it is his wife and his two helpless children who pay the penalty.

The law may be ironical, but it has no sense of humor. "You have been found guilty of not supporting your children," it says, "and therefore I will send you where you cannot support them."

Among other things it is believed that the wind can be utilized to a far greater extent than in the past, especially for electrical lighting. With this object in view the average state of the wind has been investigated in England. It is found that for approximately half the time the mean wind velocity is ten miles an hour, and for about one-third of the time fifteen miles. In the winter the average is higher. The great difficulty arises from the calm periods, which may last days, or even a week, but it has been shown that economical lighting plants can be based upon wind power by providing gasoline motors to take up the work whenever the wind falls.

ELECTRIC POWER FROM WIND

Economical Lighting Plants Can Be Based on It, With Gasoline Motors to Help.

There has never been a time when the forces of nature were subjected to such searching scrutiny to determine their availability for the development of mechanical power as they receive at present. This arises mainly from the progressive use of electricity.

Vanity. A real friendship with a vain woman lacks comfort and sincerity. Wound for a second her vanity and the friendship snaps. My people wonder at the attraction of women who are undeniably plain, but it often has its root in the fact that they are lacking in vanity. They are not constantly absorbed in their own charms, so have time to admire those of other people, consequently they are seldom lacking in friends.

Vanity is not altogether an attribute of the grown-up. One sees it frequently developed to an alarming extent in young children. Nor is it a matter for amusement. Rather should every mother strive to uproot this tendency. Ridicule is one of the swiftest ways of extinguishing it.

Children should be taught not to attach importance to whatever physical charms they may possess. Beautiful eyes, a lovely mouth or a delightful nose should not be subjects of comment, but if commented upon at all should be lightly done, for no child should be started in life with the handicap of vanity.—Exchange.

Children and Firearms Again. Little Anna Quinn, fourteen years old, was instantly killed the other day at Lowell, Mass., by the explosion of a revolver held by her playmate, Thelma Borg, aged twelve years. The two children, with Sonia Borg, a sister of Thelma, and another play-fellow, were playing about the Borg home when they discovered the revolver. After all had looked at it, Anna playfully held it against the heart of Thelma Borg. "I'm going to kill you," she said, smilingly. The trigger was pulled, but the revolver failed to explode. Once more the weapon was examined by the children and then Thelma Borg took it and placed it close to the Quinn child's head. Playfully she exclaimed: "You killed me; now I'm going to kill you." She fired. This time the weapon exploded.

Odd Sentences. "Break rock for 100 days or go to church every Sunday for six months," was the sentence imposed upon three Kansas City (Mo.) boys, after they had been convicted of throwing eggs at pedestrians.

"I sentence this boy to a whipping every morning for a month. Not the namby pamby kind, but good, real hard ones; ones that'll make him eat off a mantelpiece. You'll find that he'll develop into a good boy." This was the remedy prescribed by magisterial wisdom in the case of an eight-year-old boy who, his mother said, had a mania for running away from home.—Case and Comment.

WORST PENMEN IN CONGRESS

Sparkman of Florida and Adamson of Georgia Share That Honor Between Them.

"I'll bet you a dinner for ten people," said Representative Frank Clark of Florida one day last spring, according to the Popular Magazine, "that the worst penman in congress is Sparkman of my state."

"I'll take that bet," replied Hardwick of Georgia. "The man who writes the worst hand in the world is Adamson of my delegation."

Sparkman is chairman of the committee on rivers and harbors and Adamson is the head of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce. The two congressmen who had made the bet selected a committee to pass on the handwriting in question, and then secured letters written by Sparkman and Adamson in their own penmanship. Those letters were something horrible to see, and the judges decided that the writing of both was so bad that the writers, not the men who had made the bet, must pay for the dinner.

While the banquet was in progress Adamson told this story:

"Last winter a constituent of mine wrote to me and asked for a specimen of my handwriting, explaining that he had heard it was the worst in the world, and that he was making a study of bad penmanship. I complied with the request. In a few days he returned my letter to me, with this note:

"Fine! Am enthusiastic. Didn't know such handwriting was possible. Please send me a typewritten copy of the enclosed. I need a key to it."

EXERCISE ON THE DECLINE

Medical Journal Says That Automobiles and Motor Boats Are Making People Lazy.

Anyone who takes an outing, particularly at the seaside, can hardly fail to notice the revolution that has taken place during the last decade in the methods of enjoying a vacation, says the New York Medical Journal. The automobile whizzes by on the roads and the motor boat sputters noisily within sight of the shore, each bearing its crowd of pleasure seekers, while even the swimmers are supported, a large proportion of them at least, by an artificial contrivance designed to keep them afloat without exertion.

Rowing, walking and swimming are the three ideal exercises, all demanding the open air and all having definite objects apart from their excellent effect on bodily health. But the modern amusements, such as motoring and motor boat racing, have nothing to recommend them save that they too require outdoor space.

Golf seems to be increasing the number of its devotees, even if the latter go to the links in high powered cars. But the writer would like to see the immense audiences of baseball and football games playing on numerous diamonds and gridirons of their own, and would welcome a regulation that prescribed a playground ten times its size to adjoin every new library. It is not only the rich who become lazy; the omnipresent trolley car embodies the favorite recreation of the poor.

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Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Terrible Suffering

ECZEMA ALL OVER BABY'S BODY. "When my baby was four months old his face broke out with eczema, and at sixteen months of age, his face, hands and arms were in a dreadful state. The eczema spread all over his body. We had to put a mask or cloth over his face and tie up his hands. Finally we gave him Hood's Sarsaparilla and in a few months he was cured." Mrs. Inez Lewis, Baring, Me.

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Our Corsets are Pictured on Living Models.



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Her Anxiety. "Could you wait on me before the others?" asked the woman in the drug store. "I am in a great hurry." The drug clerk complied and filled her prescription immediately. "Thank you so much," she said. "I am afraid that Fido will awake before I return and miss me."

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