

Bellefonte, Pa., November 28, 1919.

WHEN SUN BEGINS TO COOL

Humanity in Its Maturity Will in All Probability Be Able to Conserve Heat.

We can calculate the evolution of the temperature of the earth in the future. The sun will grow smaller and cooler. Thus in 100,000 years, when the radius of the sun has diminished by only one-hundredth part, our temperature will be not more than 26 degrees C. (78.8 degrees F.) at the equator. It will have fallen to 0 degrees C. (32 degrees F.) at the latitude 40 degrees, and at Paris it will be below zero (centigrade).

Finally, in 850,000 years, when the radius of the sun has lost only five one-hundredths of its diameter and merely 500 degrees C. of its temperature, the temperature of the equator will have fallen to zero centigrade and the entire earth will be frozen. Biologic evolution, which ascends into the past for a million years, may descend into the future for an equal period of time.

Moreover, the energy of the sun whence proceeds our terrestrial energy, will be then diminished by only one-tenth. Mankind will doubtless at that time have long been capable of capturing this energy directly, or transforming it as the chlorophyll of plants so admirably does, of making it serve perhaps for several million years longer to sustain his life and the development of his thought.

MADE FRIENDS FOR COLONIES

Benjamin Franklin's Successful Diplomacy in France Meant Much to Young Country.

The first diplomat to represent the United States at a foreign court was Benjamin Franklin, who acted in Paris as official "agent" of the infant republic in France. The crossing of the Atlantic in the sloop Reprisal had occupied over a month, and Doctor Franklin had had many thrilling escapes from pursuing British vessels. Franklin was given a cordial reception in France, although his refusal to wear a sword or wig when presented at court shocked the fashionable. The greatest writers and philosophers of that golden age in France delighted to honor Doctor Franklin, and even the venerable Voltaire paid tribute to the genius of the American. Franklin remained in France nine years. At first he was merely the agent of "the American rebels," and had no official diplomatic standing, but even in this capacity he had sufficient influence to bring about the treaty of alliance between France and the Colonies, which had so profound a moral effect on the Revolutionary struggle. He raised a large amount of money in France, and after the signing of the treaty became the first American minister to that country.

Splendid Fossil Collection.
Smithsonian institution has been enriched by a ton and a half of specimens taken during the last summer from the Burgess Pass fossil quarry in British Columbia, which was discovered less than ten years ago. The work was done mainly by Secretary Wolcott of the institution, and his wife. In two months a section of the quarry 180 feet square was taken out, practically exhausting the site which has yielded some of the finest specimens of middle Cambrian fossils yet discovered and the finest invertebrate fossils yet found in any formation. Large blocks of hard shale were first blasted loose, then carefully split with chisel and hammer to expose any fossil remains between the laminae. The shale has preserved for some twenty million years animals that were as soft and non-resistant as jellyfish, worms, crabs, etc., notwithstanding all the vicissitudes these rocks have since undergone from the time they were simply hardened mud. They have been subjected to much pressure and profound chemical change, but the fossils remain perfect.

Law Officer's Perquisite.
Kissing the policeman instead of the Bible, Mrs. Amelia Thompson, who was called as a witness for the defense in an assault case, at London, Eng., by her evidence got the accused acquitted. In the witness-box she took the Bible in her right hand, "Kiss it," said Sergt. Mason. "Must I?" inquired the lady. "By all means," responded the sergeant. "Well then, here goes; if it must be done, it must be, but it's a curious thing this law, as much kissing and hugging as if one was christening a baby," and she put her arms around the sergeant's neck, and gave him such a violent kiss that it resounded throughout the court. The magistrate called her a "stupid little thing" for misunderstanding what she was to do.

Uniform Type for the Blind.
American libraries for the blind are rejoicing over the fact that they will no longer be obliged to have books in five different kinds of raised letters in order to accommodate readers taught in different parts of the country and at different periods. After many years of discussion a uniform type, to be known as "revised Braille," has been agreed upon, and hereafter all books embossed in this country are to be in the new type. "The Deserter," by Richard Harding Davis, was the first book to be published in revised Braille. —Scientific American.

BEFORE DAY OF GUNPOWDER

Soldiers Were Capable of Doing Considerable Execution With the Bow and Arrow.

The first "gun" used in warfare was undoubtedly the crossbow—arbalest—of the type having a reflex composite bow made of wood, sinew, horn or whalebone, and wound up with a ratchet or "crannequin," which slipped on over the stock and was held in place by a loop controlled by a transverse peg in the stock just behind the lock.

This weapon reached its highest development in Germany under Maximilian, when it had a steel bow of immense power. There is one in the Boston museum with a bow of over two and one-half inches wide and nearly three-fourths of an inch thick. In central Europe, France and Spain the bow was not used much save by the people who came under Mohammedan influence. The cross-bow being a much easier weapon to use, it was forbidden in England to anyone not having a certain income, in order that the yeomen and common people should be forced to use the long bow, which in military purposes was vastly superior on account of the rapidity of its fire, although outranged by the crossbow. It had one great advantage of lightness. A military crossbow with windlass weighs about 20 pounds.

REVOLUTION IN OLD EGYPT

Records Tell of Uprising Which Evidently Ended Unhappily for the Rebellious Citizens.

A recently deciphered papyrus shows a pretty revolutionary spirit among the Egyptians in the year 2000 B. C., or nearly 4,000 years before the French thought of an upheaval. The period is between the old and the middle kingdom, and an Egyptian sage plaintively invites the king to save his people in telling him of the conditions of the country. He tells him that "that is past which yesterday could be seen. The land turns like a potter's wheel. The noble cry out and the poor are full of joy. Each town says, 'Let us drive the strong from without our midst!' Those who wore clothes are now in rags. Noble women trail through the land, and housewives say, 'Had we only something to eat!' . . . The poor possess lordly things, and those who could buy themselves no sandals now have treasure. . . . The people have dethroned the king and persecuted his officials." That the revolution was a success seems hardly to have been the case, for the papyrus goes on to say that laughter has gone; misery is in the land; big and small say, "If only I were dead."

Up a Tree.
While in Africa recently Mr. A. S. Le Souef, director of the Taronga zoo (Sydney), saw plenty of elephants, which were destructive to the crops put in by the natives of the Uganda country. He also observed the body of a small antelope about 14 feet up a tree. The carcass of the antelope had been put in this position for safe keeping, by leopards. "These members of the cat family are handsome, and extremely active," says Mr. Le Souef. "They play about in clear places in the forest, tear up the ground, and spring far up the trees. They are most active, but they do not readily attack humanity, unless it be a child at evening, and they are hungry. The beauty of their fur makes them desirable for a zoo and for rugs, but the number that may be killed is limited. I saw the beautiful Colobus monkey, which, in spite of its striking black-and-white coloring, was difficult to observe among the juniper trees from whose branches hung long pieces of lichen."

No Man's a Hero to His Wife.
While the fire that destroyed the four-story Stillman department store in Muncie recently was at its height an excited woman called police headquarters, saying that her husband, a workman, was supposed to be repairing the roof on the Stillman building and she feared he might have perished in the flames. A policeman who investigated found that the man in question not only had escaped but had helped to save a woman clerk who was in danger. The officer informed the wife of this, thinking she would not only be relieved but proud of the husband. Instead she snapped back: "What was my husband doing on the roof with a woman?"—Indianapolis News.

DUE TO DIGESTIVE TROUBLE

Condition of Narcolepsy Revealed by Victim's Absolutely Irresistible Desire for Sleep.

Even after a meal of moderate size taken by a normal subject there is a slight tendency to drowsiness, which becomes much more pronounced after a heavy meal or in dyspeptics. When sleep under such conditions is irresistible we have narcolepsy. The patient may fall asleep so abruptly that he may endanger himself or others. It is characteristic, however, of narcolepsy of whatever kind that the attack is of brief duration. The victim never collapses, for he always has time to assume a posture suitable for sleep. He may even announce that he must doze for a few minutes, after which he will awake refreshed. He may be kept awake or readily awakened. Hence there should be no likelihood of mistaking narcoleptics for epileptics of any kind. The digestive troubles are of no particular type—cases have been seen of alcoholic gastritis, hyperchlorhydria, atony, etc. In these patients indigestion is only a determining cause, but relief of the stomach mischief seems to lead to complete recovery. Possibly akin to these gastric cases are others in which a subject falls into an imperative sleep after indulgence in alcohol, but who wakes in a few moments completely sober, instead of passing into a stupor.—Rocky Mountain News.

GULL HAD GOOD APPETITE

Voracious Observer Asserts Bird Swallowed Fifteen Smelt Within Space of One Hour.

Sea gulls never visit the Cowlitz and Lewis rivers except when the smelt are running. Local fishermen know when the fish are at hand by seeing the big white birds in the air wheeling and diving and uttering their plaintive cry. They sound like complaining children with rather weak lungs. When the gulls are tired of flying they settle on piles along the shore or on sand banks which they whiten like a fall of snow.

When the sharp eye of a gull sees a smelt he plunges for it, submerges his bill and head, and brings it up squirming. The bird swallows his prey in full flight, seldom or never perching to dispose of it.

A most observant young man relates that a friend of his at Kelso, on the Cowlitz, selected a gull which he could

identify and watched it for an hour to count the smelt it caught and swallowed. The number was surprisingly large—fifteen.

Perhaps this gull was more expert or luckier than ordinary. It must have been an exceptional bird in color at least or the Kelso naturalist could not have told it from the rest of the flock. Perhaps it was exceptional in other ways. And perhaps it had a double personality.—Portland (Ore.) Journal.

Obituary of a Jellyfish.

One jellyfish at least became world famous, and when she died, after living for sixty-seven years in the most intellectual society, under the protection of five successive learned gentlemen, she received the honors of an obituary notice in the Scotsman.

"Granny" belonged to the jellyfish family, but was, strictly speaking, a sea anemone whom Sir John Graham Dalyell picked off the rocks and kept in sea water all the years of his life. Sir John fed his protege regularly with one-half mussel a fortnight, and she bore a large family.

The Scotsman "In Memoriam" notice stated that 600 of Granny's offspring were known. When Sir John died his anemone was passed on to an arctic explorer, and at his death she was bequeathed to another scientific man. Granny thrived and bred little ones; she outlived four protectors, and died finally because of the neglect or ill-treatment of a botanist.

Length of Life Extended.

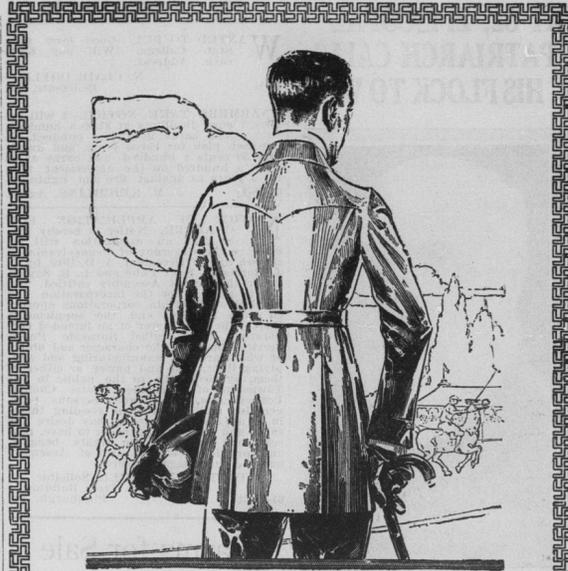
In 1348-50, 25,000,000 deaths from the plague or "black death" occurred, which was one-fourth of the entire population of the world at that time. The average length of life in the sixteenth century was only 21 years, while in this, the twentieth century, the average life is forty-five years. In India, however, the average life today is only twenty-four years. We are enabled to see what the science of medicine is accomplishing in more civilized countries, where ignorance and superstition do not prevail to any great extent.

Precocious Youth.

Mary and Ruth were discussing plans for playing house and Mary said, "I'll be the mother and you be my little girl."

"No," said Ruth, "I want to be the father."

"Oh," said Mary, "let's play we've got plenty of money, and then we won't need a father."



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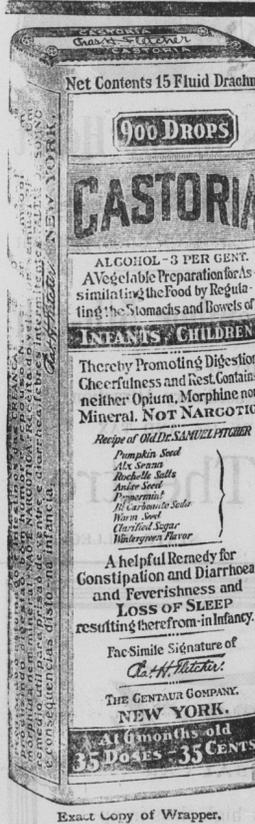
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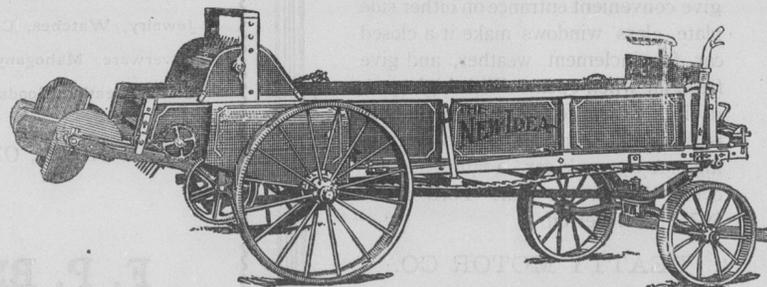
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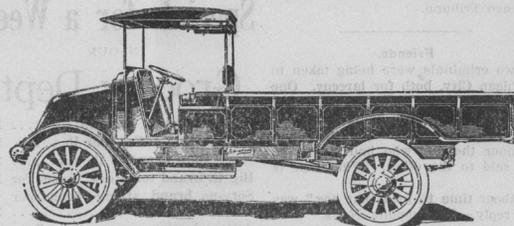
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