

SAYS UNIVERSE IS ELECTRIFIED

Professor Birkeland Holds Suns Are Charged.

THEY EMIT POSITIVE ATOMS

Scientist Asserts These Atoms Coalesce to Form Planets That Revolve About the Sun—Theory Similar to Scientists Who Transmuted Matter—More New Worlds Than Beings Born.

An amazing picture of the future development of the universe is drawn by Professor Kristian Birkeland, a Norwegian physicist, in a lecture delivered before the Academy of Science at Christiania.

The earth, said Professor Birkeland, had existed as a globe for over a milliard of years. Man had lived and developed for only a fraction of that time. During the last two centuries he had developed in culture and science far more than in the hundreds of thousands of years that he had previously existed on the earth.

"How long has this evolution been going on?" asked the lecturer. Geology taught that life upon the earth was only a brief episode. Lucien Poincare once said that human thought was like a flash of lightning in the dark night, but it would seem to be conceivable that new worlds had arrived in space more frequently than human beings were born on earth. Each world probably had its flash of lightning with its human struggle of thought and discovery, again to disappear without leaving a trace. Worlds died more frequently than human beings on earth, in numbers beyond computation.

Agrees With Other Scientists.

The researches by which Professor Birkeland arrived at these conclusions show an interesting similarity with those of Sir William Ramsay and professor Collie, who recently said they transmuted metals. His experiments, he said, showed that as a result of an electric discharge in the vacuum tube platinum and uranium appeared. At any rate, the original rays were similar to the alpha rays, or, in other words, behaved in a manner comparable with radium. Such action, he said, would appear to suggest transmutation of the elements concerned.

The bearing of these facts on the theory that Professor Birkeland puts forward as to the origin of the universe is that it gives experimental confirmation to his hypothesis that bodies strongly charged with negative electricity can give out positively electrified particles. He regards the suns and stars as such bodies emitting these particles which coalesce to form planets circulating around the parent body.

From this premise he concludes with Arrhenius that the whole of space consists of ether charged throughout with electricity.

All Suns Electrified.

The basis of his system, Professor Birkeland explained, was contained in the belief that all the suns of the universe were strongly and negatively electrified, their electrical condition being maintained by radiation. The intensity of the electrification varied with the different stars, but in the case of the sun being calculated from the character of the electric rays passing from the sun to the earth and producing the aurora borealis.

DOCTOR URGES EUTHANASIA.

Movement on in Massachusetts to Legalize Practice.

There is an agitation in medical circles throughout Massachusetts in favor of the adoption of a statute legalizing euthanasia. Among the physicians who favor the project of mercifully killing the incurables through the medium of drugs is Dean Harold Williams of the Tufts Medical school. Dean Edward R. Bradford of the Harvard Medical school, while admitting the virtues of euthanasia, doubts whether it could be administered under proper conditions.

Dean Williams said recently: "The function of the physician is well understood to be the prevention and cure of disease and the alleviation of pain. It should be the duty of every physician to protect his patient from needless suffering, and in all cases in which death is inevitable I believe humanity demands the relief of pain even if the duration of life may be shortened by the agents so employed."

Paradise Plumage Tabooed.

The use of bird of paradise feathers in millinery is condemned by the colonial secretary of Berlin, who publicly appeals to women to refuse to wear hats so adorned. He says that his department will discourage the practice by raising the export duty on birds killed in the German colonies and forbidding a law entirely prohibiting the killing of these birds.

PLAYGROUND PARAGRAPHS.

Play counts for morals, for it is in our play that we choose things according to our character, and by choosing we make our character.—Elmer Ellsworth Brown, United States Commissioner of Education.

Happy hearts and happy faces, Happy play in grassy places— That was how in ancient ages Children grew to kings and sages.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

Of all methods of serving those the conditions of whose lives are narrow and hard I know of none more important than the creation, in great aggregations of population, of breathing spaces.—Bishop Potter.

He who helps a child helps humanity with a distinctness, with an immediateness, which no other help given to human creatures in any other stage of their human life can ever give again.—Phillips Brooks.

The modern city child has lost his most precious birthright, the back yard.—Dr. Woods Hutchinson.

FRONT YARD PLANNING.

When Space Is Small Great Care Must Be Used.

On a lot of fifty feet the house is usually within twenty feet of the sidewalk. Small grounds like this should never have shrubs dotted over them or be cut up with beds, as this makes the front yard look cluttered.

All planting, unless it be of trees, should be close to the house in a way to cover the underpinning as much as possible or on the line between lots. Shrubs in the background, with hardy herbaceous plants, bedding plants and annuals in front, are most desirable. If you use more than one color, avoid those that clash, such as several shades of red. Use enough white to bring out the mixture.

The massing of several plants of one color is most effective. If you use yellow have the plants dwarf and in the front. If blue enters into your planting that should be at the farthest point. Avoid straight lines as far as possible. Graceful curves give much more natural effect and a better perspective.

STREET TREE PRUNING.

A Few Hints For This Important Part of Maintenance Work.

The work of pruning should be begun at the top of the tree and completed at the bottom. In this way the desired form can be better secured, and there is less danger of accident.

The men employed should be careful not to do more damage by breaking and bruising than they do good by pruning. A rope properly adjusted about the waist and fastened to a stout limb above the workman is an excellent means of sustaining the principal weight of the body while moving about through the tree. The form and direction of the cut when removing branches depend upon the position of the branch on the tree and upon whether it is to be simply shortened or entirely removed.

Erect branches are shortened by cutting them at an angle, thus preventing the undue entrance of water, while side branches are cut perpendicularly for the same reason.

FRANCE'S GOOD IDEA.

Municipal Employment Bureau to Be Tried in Paris.

The French government passed a law in 1904 authorizing the establishment of free municipal employment bureaus. Nothing was done about the matter until last year, when the minister of labor aroused new interest in the establishment of these bureaus, which had been worked out so successfully in Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, etc. He invited the prefects to consider the matter, and the prefect of the Seine has been instructed to present definite plans to the municipal council for the establishment of such a bureau in one of the districts of Paris.

The plan is to conduct the bureau on very democratic lines, to have it controlled by a commission composed of the workmen and employers and presided over by a man of special qualifications.

A Shade Tree Census.

The shade tree committee of the city of Philadelphia has submitted a report to the Fairmount park commission compiled from 12,902 cards, giving a census of trees on about 2,000 miles of sidewalk and describing 116,161 specimens. Of these 50,000 are standing unprotected by any guards and are liable to be injured, while thousands of others are strangled by guards that they have outgrown. Many trees have died owing to improper planting and lack of care. An appropriation of \$50,000 is asked for, or about 40 cents per existing tree. The cost of pruning and cleaning has averaged 80 cents and spraying 70 cents.—Country Gentleman.

Nature Study and Progress.

More and more of nature study is being introduced into schools from the highest to the lowest, and no small part of it consists of studies in plant life, added to which is the experience gained in the school garden or field studies along botanical lines. In the next generation a marked improvement will be seen in the general appreciation of parks, street trees and other means of making the town beautiful along strictly horticultural lines.

SCIENTISTS TELL OF APE ANCESTRY

Thirteen Savants Uphold Evolution Theory.

SUPPORT DARWIN'S IDEAS.

In Essays Printed in the Biblical World They Describe All Proofs and Show How Teachings of Scriptures Must Be Reconciled With Scientific Facts—One Sounds Alarm.

Famous scientists went on record recently to uphold the Darwinian theory of man's evolution from the lower animals. A symposium of opinion of leading savants of the United States gathered on behalf of the Christian people of the universe by Dean Shailer Mathews of the University of Chicago was published in his magazine, the Biblical World.

The magazine asked the question, "Do you believe in evolution?" So far it has received replies from thirteen of the leading astronomers, geologists and biologists of America. All answers were affirmative. The conclusion is drawn that Christians must reconcile the teachings of the Bible to the theory of Darwin rather than to refute it.

Sounds Warning to Christians.

An editorial preceding the views expressed by the scientists reads:

"Many earnest Christians are afraid of evolution as something which will destroy their faith in God and Jesus Christ. Indeed, no thoughtful person can fail to perceive the dangers to religious faith implied in certain philosophies which are based upon evolution. But such apprehensions are sometimes expressed unfortunately. The public, for instance, has been widely assured that 'evolution has collapsed.' Such an affirmation involves a question of fact. If evolution has collapsed scientists, particularly astronomers, geologists and biologists, would be the first to know.

"If it has not collapsed the religious world must discover a way in which evolution can be utilized as one of the revelations of God's will. Accordingly, in order to get at the opinion of the scientific world, the Biblical World asked a number of the leaders of American science to give an answer of not to exceed 100 words to the question, 'Does modern science still believe in evolution?' The unanimity of response makes it apparent that our theological thinking cannot ignore, much less deny, the place evolution is holding in our modern world. For our own part, we believe that, so far from being inconsistent with the gospel, evolution furnishes one of the means by which we may better understand the relations of God with this world."

Opinions of the Scientists.

Some of the opinions expressed by the scientists are by William Patten, professor of biology and zoology, Dartmouth college: "Evolution is the accepted doctrine of the natural sciences to the extent that it has long ceased to be a subject of debate in standard scientific journals or in the organized conferences of men of science. It is no longer a question of whether this, that or the other has been evolved, but where and when and how and why it was evolved. As for biologists, they are now further from agreement as to what constitutes the processes and conditions essential to organic development and further from mutual understanding or from a just appreciation of both the supplementary and antagonistic views held by their colleagues than they were a year ago.

"This is an index of real progress along divergent lines, too rapid for the pioneers to keep in constant touch with each other or with the rear guard. The brief reports of individual success or failure on the frontier which from time to time reach the public ear are, as a rule, unintelligible to the layman. They are sometimes improperly utilized to proclaim a general defeat or a general victory for this or that cause, to allay partisan fear or encourage partisan hope. Allow me, a soldier in the ranks, to report that there is but one army in the field, that the fight moves bravely on toward 'the light' and science and humanity lead."

Firmness of Theory.

By Jacques Loeb, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York: "Modern science believes more firmly than ever in evolution. Less is today written on the subject than formerly because modern biologists find it more profitable to experiment than to argue. Two essential groups of data have been added since the days of Darwin as the result of experimental work. First, it was shown through a blood reaction which was discovered in connection with work on immunity that a close relationship exists between man and anthropoid apes; second, breeding experiments by Mendelian methods have established the fact of the independent disappearance of hereditary factors for unit characters in the germ."

By Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History, New York: "Evolution has long since passed out of the domain of speculation, of hypothesis and even of theory. It is a law of living nature as firmly and incontrovertibly established as the law of gravitation in respect to the celestial spheres."



The Small Daughter's Hair. The modern mother has learned wisdom in many ways, not the least of which is the arrangement of her small daughter's hair. She no longer tortures the little one whose locks hang limp and straight with curlers in an attempt to rectify nature's mistake. Instead she accepts the mistake—in fact, does not even look upon it as such—and makes the modern little girl look just as pretty minus curls as she would with them.

Most of us remember the days when every well brought up child had her front hair either cut into a fringe straight across her forehead or else pushed back painfully and tied tightly on the crown of her head.

Today we realize that nature knows what suits little girls a great deal better than do other mothers.

Take that chubby mite, for instance, who has fluffy hair that will never grow very long and that can't help running into little curls. A middle parting would make her locks too putridly demure, thinks her mother.

So the division comes a trifle to one side, giving scope for the services of a big bow that ties back the heavier portion of the hair. This "almost middle" parting always suits a round faced child.

In a new evening style for an older girl the hair is parted for about two inches on the brow and brushed softly back behind it. A piece of satin ribbon is passed round the head, hiding the divisional line between the parting and the brushed back hair.

The ribbon ends are safely planned together and concealed either by one of those tortoise shell clasps that we grownups find so useful, or by a plain enamel buckle to match the ribbon. Then, unless the little lady has a head of very exquisite shape, the hair within the ribbon circlet is gently loosened at the back, giving almost a turban effect.

There is still another style that always suits the long faced and high browed child, and if she has hair of the kindly sort that you can twist into curls with your fingers so much the better. Make the side parting very low on the forehead and don't "scrape" the hair into that charming bow, which should never be made up and mounted on a slide.

By the way, if your little girl's hair refuses to curl, please don't resort to rags or pins! It is ten chances to one that straight hair is becoming to her face, so try the effect either of a loose plait over each shoulder, or—supposing that the hair is too thin for this—keep it cut rather short just above the shoulders.

A Nursery Party.

Great fun results when invitations are sent out to a "nursery rime lucky hunt." Naturally the little people know all the old familiar rhymes, and if they do not the sooner they set about learning them the better. The hostess will find many things that she needs for her party in the shops. The purchases are hidden about in as many rooms as possible, and then when the children arrive the hunt begins. Somewhere in the room should be displayed nursery rime pictures, but care must be taken that no words are visible.

Presently, when hunting is successfully over, the children sit down and a gayly colored lucky bag or basket is placed in the middle of the room. Now each pair of small feet have to move across the floor until they stand by this most attractive thing, but this is done in turn. The child whose name is first called holds out the result of her hunting, perhaps a tiny animal, and then says over the rime with which it is connected. This means that hands may draw out a tiny bag or box of sweets from the lucky bag or basket, and the wise hostess suggests they shall not be opened at the moment. The presence of these things prevents anything like shyness on the part of the children, who are only too eager to draw. Everybody who does not succeed in saying the rime correctly the first time is given another chance. The singing of a nursery rime ditty means that small hands may have two journeys into the lucky bag.

Many animals, birds and insects may be hidden by the organizer of a nursery rime lucky hunt—cat, dog, the black sheep, white horse, cow, bull, horse. Sheep of ordinary hue must not be forgotten. Cocks, hens, robin redbreast, demure Jenny Wren, blackbirds, crows, may all be safely hidden in the same room with charming kittens. The cat, the rat, the mouse, the pig, all make their bows in the pages of nursery rime. A quaint little pail suggests the enterprising Jack and Jill; a toy clock or a mouse, Dickory, Dickory Dock; a tiny fiddle, Old King Cole; a toy cupboard, Old Mother Hubbard; silver bells or cockle shells, Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary; a horn speaks of Little Boy Blue; a spoon, the one that the dish ran away with; a spider, Little Miss Muffet; a miniature pie, a Little Jack Horner. There are, indeed, many things which any hostess can obtain most easily. The smaller the article the easier to hide. The tiny animal figures to be purchased for a penny at toy shops answer the purpose most excellently.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL BILL.

Notice is hereby given that during the regular session of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be held in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirteen, there will be introduced a bill entitled "An act to amend an act approved the eighth day of May one thousand nine hundred and one, entitled 'An act to incorporate the Milanville Bridge Company, in Wayne County, Pennsylvania.'"

The object of said amendment is to change the annual date of meeting from the first Monday of January to the second Monday of January in each year.

MILTON L. SKINNER, President. Chas. E. Beach, Sec'y. Feb. 7, 1913. 13eoi4

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