

NEW AND CURIOUS.

The first book printed in the United States was the "Bay Psalm Book", which was issued in Cambridge, Mass., in 1640. Specimens of this publication are extremely rare and command very high prices.

Recent studies of the animal life of Lake Tanganyika have shown that that lake differs from all the other African lakes in possessing inhabitants that belong to oceanic species. Still, these singular denizens of Lake Tanganyika are not exactly like the marine organisms of the present day, and the conclusion is drawn that a sea, connected with the open ocean, once occupied the part of Africa where Tanganyika now lies, and that the lake is the last remnant of the ancient sea.

Alarm concerning the progress of Mormonism is beginning to prevail among the other religious sects in Ontario, Canada. In the political canvass now going on the usual forecasting of the attitude of the several religious interests is made, and the estimate based upon it, that before the year passes away there will be 100,000 Mormons in the province, is now thought to be within the mark. This result is confirmed through inquiries made by the Presbyterian Review.

The surgeon's electric cauterizing wire has been used by the United States fur seal commission with much success for branding female fur seals. A dynamo, driven by a gasoline engine, supplied the current, which heated a platinum wire to incandescence. By moving this once over the animal's body the hair and fur were virtually mowed away. A second sweeping of the wire across the surface destroyed the cells so that no more fur can grow there. This destroys the value of the pelt, and thus operates to prevent the killing of female seals at sea.

The novel feat of catching a chicken thief by means of a camera was recently performed by a West Philadelphian, says the New York Sun. Finding that his hen roost was persistently raided, he set up a snapshot camera in such a way that it was focused directly on the entrance of the chicken house. Near by on a saucer was placed a charge of flashlight powder. An ingenious arrangement of wires was then run from a battery to the camera and flash powder and thence to the door, which when opened would work the camera and ignite the powder simultaneously. One morning he found that the coop had been broken open, although the thief had evidently been scared off by the flash of the powder. Anxious to see how the scheme had worked, he at once developed the

plate and nearly fainted when the face of a church deacon appeared. That individual confessed to all the robberies, and promised to make restitution to avoid arrest.

One of the methods of testing the question of the existence of a perceptible atmosphere on the moon is the observation of a star at the instant when it disappears or emerges from behind the moon. If there were a lunar atmosphere it would produce some effect on the appearance of the star. No such effect has ever certainly been observed. Recently this method has been rendered more delicate, perhaps, by the introduction of photography. Photographs of stars, made as they are about to disappear behind the lunar disk, show no indications of change in the intensity of the image, such as would be expected if the moon had a perceptible atmosphere.

In an attempt to turn "wireless telegraphy" to practical account and make it a commercial success, W. J. Clark, of New York, has produced apparatus for sending and receiving telegraphic signals without wires, which is to be placed upon the market. Where, for any reason, it is not desired to use the Morse signals, a special receiver is furnished either with a vibrating bell or an incandescent lamp, the latter enabling the person receiving the message to read it visually. Inasmuch as Marconi's experiments have shown that telegraphic signals can already be sent ten miles, or more, without wires, it is hoped that the new system will have a rapid development.

Scientific experiments extending over two years have been made under the auspices of the Studebaker Bros., the widely known wagon builders, to determine the relative qualities of wide and narrow wagon wheel tires. Every kind of road was used to test the question. It was found that on macadam road the narrow tires were far inferior to the wide, and they required much greater effort to draw a given load. In a deeply rutted clay road, the narrow tires running in the ruts and the wide tires on top, the narrow tires were far more efficient. This was also the case with wet mud. But as soon as the mud began to dry, the wide tires showed a vast superiority. In general the only justification for narrow tires proved to be thoroughly bad roads.

Club Rates.

The Weekly Oregonian is the best newspaper published in the Pacific Northwest. The subscription price is \$1.50 per year. We will give it, together with the Torch of Reason, for the exceedingly low price of \$1.75. You will get two papers for a little more than the price of one.

LIBERAL UNIVERSITY

THE ONLY SCHOOL OF THE KIND

Free from Superstition
Strictly Non-Sectarian

Pupils are Given Every Opportunity to Learn Without Being Hampered by Superstitions and Dogmas.

Location Healthful,
Society Good.
Expenses Moderate

A Splendid Corps of Teachers and Good Facilities for Teaching. For information, address
J. E. HOSMER, Ph.D., B.S.D., President,
SILVERTON, OREGON.

Cusiter & Davenport

—DEALERS IN—

...GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Corner Main and Water Streets,
SILVERTON, ORE.

We are Giving Away

Some nice Yard-Sticks to remind you that we have

A Large Stock

Of Furniture, Carpets and Wall Paper.

Our Prices are the Lowest
Our Goods are the Best

BUREN & HAMILTON,

Commercial Street,

SALEM

OREGON

Try the Torch for Jobwork.