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NEW AND CURIOUS.

When a Philippine woman of better class gets married, she sometimes wears as her wedding dress a costume of native manufacture that reaches in value up into four figures. It takes months to make a handkerchief or a sleeve, so microscopic and delicate is the fabric.

Travelers in Australia complain that almost the only trees in the continent are eucalyptus, and they afford little shade, as they have learned to turn their leaves edge-wise to the sun. The botanical gardens in the cities are, however, declared to be dreams of beauty.

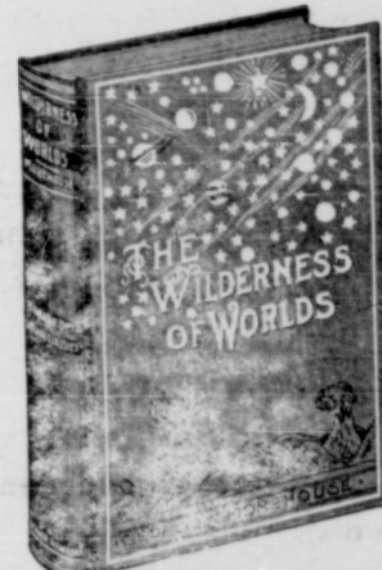
Recent investigations have shown that the principal source of the Gulf stream is not the Florida channel, but the region between and beside the islands of the West Indies. At Binioni the volume of this warm water is sixty times as great as the combined volume of all the rivers in the world at their mouths.

Recent inquiries in England have led to the preparation of tables showing the "full term of life" for man and other mammals, based upon the theory that there is a fixed ratio between the period required to reach maturity and the total length of life. Accident, disease and so forth have to be eliminated from the calculation. According to these tables only one animal exceeds man in its full life term, namely, the elephant. For man the theory makes the average term about 90 years, and for the elephant something over 100 years. Next to man in longevity come the camel and the Arabian horse, whose term of life is about 42 years.

According to Agoncillo, Aguinaldo's representative to this country, the Spanish found that Mohammedan civilization had preceded them in the Philippines through the Arabs by four centuries. When the Spaniards reached there in 1521 they found the natives working the mines of both gold and iron, cultivating and weaving cotton, silk, pineapple fibre and hemp. They were exporters of cotton goods and other manufactures. They had foundries for casting iron and brass and were makers of brick and pottery. Among them were sculptors and molders. At the present it is said that 62 per cent of the natives can read and write. There are 2,167 primary schools in the islands, besides a number of academies and colleges. Since 1872 about 200 students a year have gone abroad for education. Surely they are not all savages.

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