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NEW AND CURIOUS.

The most wonderful astronomical photograph in the world is that which has recently been prepared by London, Berlin and Parisian astronomers. It shows at least sixty-eight million stars.

***

A German inventor, Herr Langhans, has produced a filament of carbide of silicon for use in incandescent electric lamps, which, it is asserted, can be run at a higher efficiency than any carbon filament, and at the same time does not, like carbon, coat the glass bulb with an obscuring deposit.

***

The French match factories are now turning out friction matches which will ignite on any surface, but which are free from the objections raised against white sulphur. No smoke or odor is perceptible in the factories. The inflammable ingredients of the paste are sesquisulphide of phosphorus and chlorate of potash.

***

The new satellite of Saturn, recently discovered by Prof. W. C. Pickering with the aid of photography, has been named Phebe. Owing to its small size, probably not exceeding 200 miles in diameter, and its great distance from the planet, about 7,787,000 miles, Phebe bears no resemblance to such a satellite as our moon. Seen from Saturn, it would appear only as a star, and a faint star at that, probably just noticeable to the naked eye.

***

Wide currency having been given to the statement that liquid air promises to do the work of coal at next to no cost, because an experimenter claims to have produced "ten gallons of liquid air by the use of three gallons in an engine," President Henry Morton of the Stevens Institute has pointed out the fallacy of the claim. He shows that it really takes twelve times as much power to make a gallon of liquid air as that gallon could develop in an ideally perfect engine.

***

"It was the cat," is a phrase that excuses many things, and it may yet be used to account for the spread of the grip. Through the London Daily Mail a veterinary surgeon warns the public to beware of cats that have "colds." "I have recently discovered," he writes, "that in many parts of the west and northwest of London members of the feline race have been stricken with influenza, and of a most dangerous form. As the disease may be contracted from pets, it behooves ladies and gentlemen not to handle or fondle afflicted animals. I would particularly warn parents not to allow children to play with or go near a cat or dog which appears to have a slight cold."

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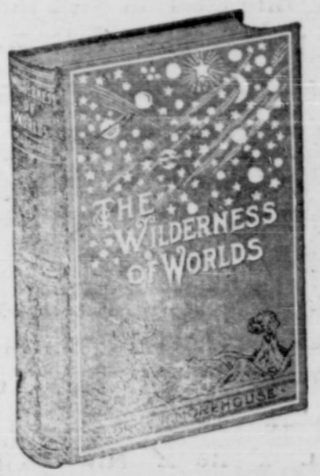

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