

SCIENTIFIC NEWS

Our senses, it appears, have developed through gradual evolution. Natives of remote Pacific islands are still unable to distinguish between blue and black; and Dr. F. W. Edridge Green, whose investigations have covered many years, concludes that the color sense—which is distinct from the mere perception of light and shade—is one of man's recent acquisitions. Primitive man could not distinguish colors at all. Red and violet, the colors of greatest difference in wave length, were learned first, all others appearing gray; then green was detected in the gray field, followed by yellow, and finally by blue and orange. In a form of trichromatic color blindness that now exists, only three colors—such as red, green and violet—are distinguished, yellow being mentioned as red-green.

By the Hubon process, black pigment is made by pumping acetylene into steel cylinders to a pressure of about two atmospheres, and then passing an electric spark through the vessels, the gas being thus dissociated into its carbon and hydrogen. The hydrogen is collected for any convenient use; the carbon is ready for the market. Acetylene black is free from the city impurities of ordinary lamp black, and the demand is already so great that the first factory—now running in Switzerland—is likely to be followed by others in other countries.

Guesses at the world's age differ widely. Sir Edward Fry points out that the physicist, reasoning from the dissipation of the earth's heat, the contraction of the sun, and the action of the tides, finds that the earth consolidated at a time nearer 20 than 40 million years ago; while the geologist, from the present rate at which sand, chalk, etc., are being deposited by river and sea, infers that 450 million years must have elapsed since life began on the globe. The biologist thinks the time must be still more vast since the beginning of life, on the assumption that species have multiplied by very slow variation, the estimate being 2700 million years. Sir Edward contends that the single phenomenon of "polarism," a sudden transmissible variation among plants sufficiently shows that the biological estimate is unnecessarily long. This abnormal development was first observed more than 150 years ago in the yellow tooth-flax of a Baltic island, and has since been traced by one observer in 110 varieties of plants.

An absolute vacuum may always remain unknown, but a close approach to it has been reached by Prof. James Dewar to his determined search for the absolute zero of temperature. He uses no air-pump. A glass receiver with a small receptacle at the bottom, is filled with air, which is then frozen and falls into the lower tube. The neck of the latter is then sealed in the blowpipe flame, when the portion containing the air is broken off.

Roller bearings for marine engines, Dr. P. M. Tasker suggests, should increase the revolutions from 7 to 10 per cent or more. Ball bearings, while even further lessening friction, have disadvantages for heavy work, and are not to be considered for any of the smaller engines of launches.

The true fishes are estimated by Dr. Jordan and Evermann at number 12,000 species, belonging to 200 families. Of these 333 species have been distinguished in the waters of North and South America.

One of the strange features of Central Asia, as shown by Sven Hedin, is the traveling of the ancient lake of Lop-nor, which seems to form an oscillating pedulum of the Karim river, and pass north and south across a desert in a period of 1000 years or more. The old bed is now dry. The lake of Kara-koshun, however, is gradually disappearing in the place where Pripavsky found it, and slowly creeping northward, with the prospect that it will occupy the ancient site at no distant time. As the lake becomes filled with mud, sand and decaying vegetation, the desert to the northward is deepened by wind-blown sand. It is already known that in year 235 the lake of Lop-nor occupied a place in the north.

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travel will turn toward the south. The vegetation, the desert animals, and the native fishers, with their rude huts, follow after the lake.

The chief cause of the hostility of different colonies of ants is found to be difference of odor and of ages.

Moody's Checkerboard Bill

DEAR SIR: I desire to attract your attention to the bill that Congressman Moody has introduced in Congress, known as the Checkerboard bill, designed to permit the wagon road land grant companies, and in particular the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Co., and the Dalles Military Road Co. to exchange such old numbered sections as they may choose in portions of their grant, for even numbered sections in other portions of their respective grants. Or in other words to permit to consolidation of their holdings into solid bodies of land, instead of owning alternate sections throughout the extent of the grants.

It is claimed by the promoters of the bill that the measure is designed to benefit the public, and the settler, on the public domain, but this claim is evidently made for the sole purpose of pulling the wool over the eyes of the people who live in this land grant district, as to the actual effect the bill will have should it become a law. It goes without saying that these land companies who are not residents of Oregon, will not take any measures that will decrease the value of their own lands, and it is clear that they are seeking by this bill to work a further graft on the public lands. They claim that this bill will benefit the public by permitting them to relinquish certain of their holdings for other lands, thus throwing larger tracts of the public domain together, but they do not say what the fact will be that the lands they will relinquish will be the most worthless and least valuable of their grant, and in lieu thereof, they will select the most valuable lands to be obtained, principally those along water courses and where they can be made subject to irrigation. The water rights would be appropriated, and it would be but a short time until the entire available water supply and the lands subject to reclamation will be owned and held by these foreign corporations, and the individual settler will be excluded from any benefits from the public land laws.

These reasons are adduced in addition to those given in the leading editorial in the Oregonian of the 10th inst, denouncing the measure severely.

The Oregonian has always supported Moody, but this job is so unpalatable that even the Oregonian could not stand it.

It is even worse than the range leasing measure that was proposed a year ago.

This measure should be denounced in the press of the country, and the people of the interior given to see the practical workings of this proposed law in its correct light.

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telling what an ambitious member of the legislature won't think of, especially if he has just been turned down on a matrimonial proposition.

Doesn't Understand. Mr. Childs was asked by what divine or legal authority he intended to put a baptistry in the Union church building. I will briefly notice a few things in his answer.

After speaking of consultation and desirability of such an addition I have announced upon good faith in the good sense and good nature and generosity of certain ones who gave as much or more toward the support and building of the Union church as any one else. Is this your authority if so is not the public entitled to the names of your authority? We want to know whether they are competent to settle the fine points of legality.

Next come the inquiry as to trustees to consult or authority to obey and was told there used to be some trustees, but their terms had expired and none had been elected to fill the vacancies, that one or two of the original ones lived somewhere in the county, but they or he had delegated what authority there was (they seem to have a little) to our Robert Smith and that was all there was to it.

My opinion is that this fellow is running a whizzer on us that have got a six bit court house, then he goes on and speaks of custom having made laws. But custom-made laws are not good for all men, especially preachers. For instance, it is a custom any one may go on the range and take in a sick ear. It seems to me it will take a big piece of cloth to make a vest. Custom makes the Baptistry (not the Bible), if we are to have it to help the invalid along, why not have the other preacher pour a little water on him? He goes on and says if I have superseded my authority I stand corrected. What meaning shall we put on that? The good stand corrected, the lawbreaker also after he breaks the law. As far as building the tabernacle, I say yes, but we don't think best to commence building it in the Union church.

As I promised to be brief I close. Tom and Dick.

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The Best Organs in the World. Almost Given Away. Simply Used. Or Course, But Good As New.

We have now on hand a large number of first-class organs only slightly used, that have been turned in to us as part payment on new pianos. These organs have all been thoroughly renovated and put in perfect order by our expert workmen, who have made them in every respect as good as new. We are however, selling all of them, simply as second-hand instruments and our prices will be found amazingly low. Among them are a fine Chicago Cottage good as new, for only \$84; one handsome Mason & Hamlin, with large mirror and high top for \$50; an elegant Cornish, in fair condition for \$15; one of the celebrated A. H. Whitney's, for but \$41; a beautiful Cottage Queen for \$36; Estey, used only two months, \$12; a Kimball, good as new in every respect, \$49; a fine Smith American, \$28; one of the popular Western Cottage, \$46; a Crown, guaranteed for 10 years, \$52; Packard, fancy case, \$43; and a great bargain in a fine, new \$90 Kimball, whose case was a little damaged in shipment, which we will sell for only \$58. Just think of it, only \$5.00 down secures one of these organs in your home and \$3.00 a month completes your payments.

This is an exceptional chance to secure a fine instrument for money you would fritter away and never miss. One of them will afford your children a good musical education and any time within two years if you desire to purchase a piano, we will give you credit for just what you have paid for it on any piano you choose. If you want a good musical instrument, and do not feel like paying much for it, you cannot do better than take advantage of this opportunity.

Maybe you would be interested in the fine pianos we are selling. We are offering this season an elegant new piano for \$137.00 the same kind that Eastern department stores and mail order houses advertise so extensively. Shipping our instruments in carload lots, and under our harness system, which does away with boxing, we are in a position to save at least

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\$20 on each piano and give you the benefit of the saving. Our terms of payment are exceedingly easy, as little as \$6 down secures a fine instrument in your home and \$6 monthly complete your payments. Every instrument we sell has our written guarantee and if after use, your instrument does not suit, we will cheerfully take it back and refund the money you have paid on it. Write us immediately if you want to be certain of securing one of these bargains. Eilers Piano House, 351 Washington street. Other large houses at Spokane, San Francisco and Sacramento.

Bright's Disease.

The largest sum ever paid for a prescription, changed hands in San Francisco, Aug. 30, 1901. The transfer involved in coin and stock \$112,500.00 and was paid by a party of business men for a specific for Bright's Disease and Diabetes, hitherto incurable diseases. They commenced the serious investigation of the specific Nov. 15, 1900. They interviewed scores of the cured and tried it out on its merits by putting over three dozen cases on the treatment and watching them. They also got physicians to name chronic, incurable cases, and administered it with the physicians for judges. Up to Aug. 25, eighty-seven per cent of the test were either well or progressing favorably.

There being but thirteen per cent of failures, the parties were satisfied and closed the transaction. The proceedings of the investigating committee and the clinical reports of the test cases were published and will be mailed free on application. Address JOHN J. FULTON COMPANY, 420 Montgomery St. San Francisco, Cal.

The Oregon Semi-Weekly Journal, a Democratic newspaper, ever fair and all-around, is for sale for one year for only \$1.50 to any address. The Journal, P. O. Box 121, Portland, Or.

CONTEST NOTICE. U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon. A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by CHARLES A. GRAVES, contestant, against homestead entry No. 400, made Nov. 1, 1897, for a 1/2 acre and a lot or section 2, Township 14 S., Range 15 E., by Christian Horn, contestant, at his office at Tatum, Oregon, and that final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. on March 2, 1902, before W. A. Bell, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Tatum, Oregon, (and that final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. on March 26, 1902, before the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in The Dalles, Oregon.)

Through Tickets to Points East and in Europe can be purchased at the Montreal office of the Columbia Southern Railway at the lowest prevailing rates.

Table with 2 columns: STATIONS, DAILY PASSENGER SERVICE. Includes stations like Biggs, Gibbons, Wasco, Klamath, Sumner, Hay Canyon, McDonald, DeMoss, Moro, Erskineville, Grand Valley, Bourbon, Kent, Wilcox, and Shaniko.

O. R. & N. OREGON SHORT LINE AND UNION PACIFIC. DEPART FOR: Chicago, Portland, Alameda, St. Paul, Spokane, Chicago, East. TIME SCHEDULES FROM BIGGS, OR. ARRIVE FROM: 12:30 p.m., 6:11 a.m., 3:30 a.m.

70 HOURS 70 PORTLAND TO CHICAGO. For particulars as to rates and route address, J. H. FREDRICK, Agent, Biggs, Or. Oregon Daily Journal, a Democratic daily newspaper, eight to 15 pages, 24 cents per copy, sent in your subscription. Interest your neighbor in The Journal. Address The Journal, Box 121, Portland, Or.

A. H. Lippman. Manufacturers of Furniture and Dealers in Wood, Cloth and Metallic Caskets. EMBALMING A SPECIALTY. Lumber and Building Material. ADAMSON & WINNEK CO. INCORPORATED 1899. DRUGS, STATIONERY, HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS.

BLACKSMITHING. JOHN WHEEL PROP. SUCCESSORS TO CONNITT & HIRKIN. We wish to call the attention of the people of Cook County to the fact that we have become the owner and proprietor of the business previously conducted by Curran & Ekins. We will make a specialty of all kinds of Blacksmithing, Horseshoeing and Woodwork. Call at the old stand and get your work done in a satisfactory manner.

O'Neil Bros., DEALERS FINE LIQUORS AND CIGARS. Bear 5 Cents. Family Trade Solicited on Bottled Beer and The Famous Napa Soda. Whiskies from \$4 to \$10.

HOTEL SHANIKO, Wm Reinhart Prop. The above hotel will be completed and opened to the public the first of August. NEW HOME, NEW BEDS, LIGHT and AIRY ROOMS. The tables are supplied with the very best that the markets affords. Terms Reasonable.

HENDERSON & POLLARD, DEALERS IN FINE WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS. Best Brands of Goods on the Market. THE FINEST IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC CIGARS IN THE CITY TO BE HAD HERE. Call on Us, at White Corner Old Brand, Next Door to Poindexter Hotel.

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