

VENUS IS NEAREST LEAST FROM COLLISIONS

Planet in Some Respects Favorable to Life.

MANY OTHERS ARE VOID

Official of Smithsonian Institution Gives Views on Habitability of Other Worlds.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24.—While there may be many worlds—millions of them—populated by beings and cultured civilizations, the planet Venus, according to Dr. G. P. Abbot, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, is the only one known to scientists whose conditions are most nearly approximate those under which life thrives.

Writing in the annual report of the institution, just made public, Dr. Abbot, while he does not declare Venus to be inhabited, rejects the possibility of other nearby planets holding intelligent life.

Dr. Abbot does cite, however, the chance that there may be any number of celestial bodies, yet invisible through the most powerful telescope, on which there may thrive some sort of life.

As is well known, the scientist states, stars are suns like our own, and just as Old Sol has his retinue of satellites, there is no probability whatever that intelligent life can be there.

Mercury Torrid Waste. As shown by its low reflecting power, Mercury, Dr. Abbot declares, like the moon, is an arid, waste land, and being besides baked by a torrid heat 12-fold that of our own planet, there can be no thought of life there.

The main requisites of life are light, certain inorganic salts, carbon compounds, water and warmth. Plants and life requirements of light are very elastic. Plants grow and animals thrive on earth where light is a thousandfold less than daylight, and the full sun is far from being too strong for most of them.

Observers at Variance. It has been shown by other scientists, he says, that the descriptions of the Martian markings observed by many differ widely. As widely and contradictorily as would be expected of descriptions of the moon by persons who had never observed our satellite without a telescope.

The Venus Cloud-Envelope. The only obstacle to deciding forever the habitability of Venus is her ever-surrounding envelope of cloudy atmosphere. There has never been absolute proof that the surface of Venus has ever been seen by an early observer.

Deciding the period of rotation is at present dependent upon spectroscopic observations and they are not competent to indicate more than that the period of rotation is large as compared to our day.

He notes that spectroscopic studies by the scientist, St. John, tend to throw doubt on the existence of water vapor in the atmosphere of Venus. His observations have shown few, if any, water lines in the spectrum of the planet.

Dr. Abbot believes, however, that the absence of water lines in the spectra of St. John is the result of the light being reflected from the clouds, back to earth, through such a thin envelope of water vapor as to render invisible the water vapor lines.

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MAZAMAS TO EXPLORE

MT. HOOD TO BE CLIMBED BY PIONEER ROUTE.

Paradise Park Is to Be Home of Party July 1-4 and Glaciers Will Be Visited.

Nestling well up on the southwest slope of Mt. Hood is Paradise park, rivaling in beauty its namesake of Mt. Rainier.

BOY WINS STATE PRIZE

ESSAY BY ONTARIO YOUTH GETS W. C. T. U. HONORS.

Composition on Health Will Be Entered in National Test for School Children.

After having defeated 49 competitors in an essay-writing contest, in Malheur county, Fred E. Lees, 11 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Lees of Ontario, has received the first prize offered by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union for grammar-school children.

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