

COOS BAY TIMES

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WHY EARTHQUAKES?

THE CATASTROPHE in the Mediterranean has revived a discussion of the possibility of foretelling earthquakes. How far any warning of such a disaster is likely to be heeded is perhaps open to question, but the feasibility of giving one certainly deserves consideration. With increasing knowledge concerning the causes of seismic disturbances, perhaps a trustworthy forecast will some day be practicable. The utmost that conservative geologists are willing to say today is that certain well defined regions are much more susceptible than others, but to determine just when the forces at work will manifest themselves is another matter.

There is also something like agreement concerning the causes of earthquake. It is conceded that a great many of these shocks are due to stresses set up in the crust of the earth. One group of experts attribute the stresses to the generation of vast quantities of steam by the leakage of water into the heated interior; another to the shrinkage of the earth in consequence of radiation; still another to the transfer of material from one region to another, and a fourth to astronomical influence. No one of the first three explanations of the internal strain would afford much help in fixing the time when an outbreak might be expected, but the last would, if it were correct.

The notion that a tide in the molten interior of the globe is raised by the sun and moon has long had a few adherents. Among them was a Frenchman, Alexis Perrey, who made a comparison between the dates of 15,000 earthquakes and the occasions when the moon was in the right position to exert the strongest pull. His figures showed what seemed to be a trifling preponderance (about 2 1/2 per cent) of favorable lunar dates over the unfavorable ones. On limiting his study to southern Italy he found a slightly greater proportion. Unfortunately, however, a compatriot of Perrey, DeLannay by name, followed up the inquiry so as to include 149,000 earthquakes and found that the excess of shocks when the moon was in the right position over those when it was in the wrong position "dwindled away to almost nothing," according to Major Dutton.

Prof. T. A. Jagger of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who has faith in the doctrine referred to, calls attention to the fact that the destruction of Messina occurred on one of the earthquake dates pre-announced by another geologist, Mr. Frank A. Perret. The coincidence is striking, but should not be interpreted hastily. Seismologists may be led by it to re-examine the evidence for and against the lunar tide theory, but until it can be more completely established than it was by M. DeLannay the world will be justified in regarding it with skepticism, and in keeping that a better basis for forecasts will yet be found.

Perhaps a useful clue has been afforded by the well-known Japanese student of earthquakes, Dr. Omori. He has expressed the belief that great shocks are preceded by minor ones in the region above the seat of the disturbance. Of course, it would be necessary to distinguish between tremors which possessed significance and those which had none. However, if a way could be found to do so—and the attainment of the result does not seem altogether impracticable—the hint may lead to a safer system of prediction than any yet suggested.

WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING. God hides some ideal in every human soul. At some time in our life we feel a trembling, fearful longing to do some good thing. Life finds its noblest spring of excellence in this hidden impulse to do our best. —Selected.

What's a woman? Ask a man, What d'you fancy he will say? 'Airs and graces, frills and laces, Never knows what she wants each day!'

Why, then, gossip, tell me true, Why you woo her—as you do?

Ask a woman: What's a man? What d'you fancy she will say? 'Swag'ring, swearing, overbearing,

Always wanting to have his way!'

Say, then, gossip, if you can, Why you wed him—horrid man!

Gentle sir and sweetest madam, Would you know the reason true Why today you scorn each other And tomorrow bill and coo?

Ask your parents Eve and Adam, They can tell, and—so can you! —ANON.

Breaking in a new servant girl at a house is almost as bad as a fire.

As soon as you try to make a profit on your friends, you have no friends.

In one respect a holiday is like a funeral: You can't get back to a working basis until you forget it.

We don't want to knock any laurels off Job's brow, but he never had to answer a telephone in all his life.

In real life you cannot hope for the same success in thwarting the villain that comes to the hero in the play.

If father has a favorite child, the mother and other children sometimes use the pet as a means to work him.

An enthusiastic person is seldom a favorite. Don't admire anything; always look as though you had better at home.

Americans have a way of worrying a man into his grave by abusing him unjustly, and then telling, after his death, what a Good Man he was.

If two men have a conversation today, they cannot agree tomorrow upon what they said. A man should give a receipt for his conversation.

Latest advices from Spokane, Wash., are to the effect that Billy Sunday's vocabulary is still shocking people who don't like the way he talks.

When a man gives up a marriage engagement because the woman is not a member of his church the real facts are he is in love with another woman.

A California exchange reports that the doctors are puzzled about a girl in that city who has been "crying for a week." Some of the folks who have time to spare ought to let her have one.

Before a woman is married, she is half crazy about it, but after she is married, she forgets all about it, and goes to putting up jelly, is the observation of a Coos Bay woman who says she knows.

"What sort of an after-dinner speaker is Judge Gosas?" Dr. Dix asked Geo. Goodrum.

"One of the kind who start in by saying they didn't expect to be called on, and then proceed to demonstrate that they can't be called off," replied Goodrum as he wrapped up a pale lavender tie.

A New York club is said to be making a determined attack on superstition. The organization is called the Thirteen club, its meetings are held on the 13th day of every month, and its dinners are given at coffin-shaped tables at which thirteen guests can be seated. To complete its program, it should arrange to have for an honored guest some man known to be a political dead one.

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D R. A. C. BURROUGHS Homeopathic Physician Chronic Diseases a Specialty. Residence and office, corner 'C' and Second Streets, Marshfield.

D R. GEORGE W. LESLIE Osteopathic Physician Graduate of American School of Osteopathy Office Hours:—9 a. m. to 4 p. m. Other Hours by Appointment. Office over First National Bank Phone 1811. Marshfield, Or.

D R. G. E. DIX Physician and Surgeon New Flanagan & Bennett Bank Bldg Phone 1681 Residence Phone 1655.

D R. J. W. INGRAM Physician and Surgeon Office 208-209 Coos Building Phones—Office 1621; Residence 1623

D R. A. L. HOUSEWORTH Physician and Surgeon. Offices second floor of Flanagan & Bennett Bank Building. Office hours 2 to 4 p. m.; 7 to 8 p. m. Phone: Office, 1431; Residence, 1433

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