

MYSTERY OF THE PLANETS.

Science Cannot Penetrate the Hazy Veils That Mask Them.

It is not known definitely whether the planet Venus rotates. If it does it may possibly have a life and a vegetation like our own, though we suspect that it is clothed in eternal cloud. Of Saturn's rings we cannot say whether they consist of millions of tiny moons like brickbats or whether they may be even smaller still—a veil of shining dust.

Of Jupiter we can only say that it is covered with clouds, though of their substance we know nothing, and that according to Professor Lowell and Sir William Huggins some of the bands we see on it may be rifts in the clouds revealing the body of the planet. Little lines crisscross these bands. Photographs of Jupiter taken at Flagstaff observatory, Arizona, seem to indicate that these lines, too, are the upper clouds of Jupiter.

But whenever we see a planet we see it badly. Even Mars, the most clearly revealed of them all, is constantly obscured by a refracting haze, so that even the famous "canals," though nearly 500 in number, are only perceptible a few at a time, and an unskilled observer would probably not make them out at all.

HYGIENE IN THE BEEHIVE.

The Way Intruders Are Sealed Up in a Tomb of Wax.

It has been observed that bees have a most ingenious and sanitary way of disposing of a living creature that may by accident or design chance to find its way into their hive. When the intruder is killed, as killed he must be, whether he be large or small, the problem arises how to deal with the body.

If the bees find that it is impossible to expel or dismember the creature they will proceed cleverly to inclose it in a veritable sepulcher of wax. In one of his hives a beekeeper discovered three such tombs side by side, erected with party walls like the cells of the comb, in order that no wax might be wasted. These tombs the prudent bees had raised over the remains of three snails that had strayed into the hive.

As a rule the bees will, when dealing with snails, be content to seal up with wax the opening of the shell. In this case, however, the snails' shells were more or less cracked or broken. The bees had therefore considered it simpler to bury the snails entire, and the bees had further contrived, in order that traffic might not be impeded in the entrance hall of the hive, a number of galleries exactly proportionate not to their own girth, but to that of the male bees, which are almost twice as large as the workers.—Exchange.

Historic Pawnee Rock.

A short distance north of Pawnee Rock station, Kansas, is a high southward facing cliff of sandstone known as Pawnee rock, projecting as a rocky promontory from the broad ridge that forms the north side of the valley. The elements and the hand of man, says a report of the geological survey, have made great changes in its size and appearance since the days when the Santa Fe trail passed along its base. Here there were many encounters between the savages and the whites and also between hostile bands of Indians, for the place is noted not only in pioneer history, but in Indian traditions as well. Names and initials of many travelers, from the early trappers and the "forty-niners" to the later army detachments, have been scratched on the smooth faces of the ledges.

Birds That Sing During Flight.

In reference to a recent paragraph about birds that sing while flying a correspondent writes: "The cuckoo is a fine bird that sings as it flies, especially when pursued by angry little birds whose nest it has attempted to invade, as I have several times seen and heard. Then the treepit and whitethroat generally rise from their perch and flutter in the air while singing, besides swallows, if you count their twittering as a song. I have also seen and heard mistle thrush and blackbird sing while flying, but only very rarely."—London Mail.

Its Value to Him.

"Has your college education been of any practical value to you?" "You bet it has! If it wasn't for my experience in track athletics I'd have to leave my house five minutes earlier every morning in order to catch the 7:58," replied the commuter.—Michigan Awgwan.

A Roast Resented.

"I always try to attend to my own business," said the self approving man. "That's jes' what folks are talkin' about," replied Farmer Cornstossel. "Tendin' to your own business ain't what we lected you to the legislature fur."—Washington Star.

Unkind.

"A fool and his money are soon parted." "Yep. Who got yours away from you?"—Detroit Free Press.

Venice.

Venice became a maritime power in 1158. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries she was mistress of the seas.

RELIGIOUS WARS IN EUROPE.

The Thirty Years' Conflict and the Peace of Westphalia.

Osnabruck is one of the most venerable towns of Prussia. In the closing years of the eighth century Charlemagne designated it as the capital of a bishopric, a distinction which it enjoyed without interruption for more than a thousand years. In 1808 the see was suppressed, the last bishop being Frederick, duke of York, son of the English Hanoverian monarch, George III. In 1858 the city was restored to its religious eminence when it was again made the seat of a Roman Catholic bishop.

It is an account of her share in the preliminary negotiations which led to the epochal peace of Westphalia that Osnabruck is famous in history. In 1644, after all central Europe had been devastated by the great struggle which eventually became known as the Thirty Years' war, representatives of Sweden, the German empire and German Protestants met here, while in the neighboring city of Munster, thirty miles to the southwest, delegates from France, Spain, the German Catholics and the German empire gathered.

The negotiations extended over a period of four years. In October, 1648, both groups of conferees having arrived at a common basis of settlement, the Osnabruck diplomats repaired to Munster, where a few days later the peace was signed which guaranteed the sovereignty and independence of the several states of the empire and which forbade religious persecution throughout Germany. It was this peace, in which Osnabruck played such a vital part, that put an end to religious wars in Europe.

As early as 888 Osnabruck was granted the right to establish its own mint, but it was not until the fifteenth century that the city reached the crest of its mediæval prosperity. Following the decline which was necessarily incidental to the ravages of the Thirty Years' war, it enjoyed a second era of growth. The two most impressive architectural piles in Osnabruck are the episcopal cathedral, dating back to the twelfth century and representing a combination of the Romanesque and Transitional styles, and the royal palace, built in 1662-75.—National Geographic Society Bulletin.

QUEENSLAND SAVAGES.

Some Curious Customs of a Race That Will Soon Be Extinct.

The aborigines of Queensland are fast fading away, and in view of the fact that this race will soon be extinct an examination of their social customs is interesting.

The death bone or bone apparatus, with its supposed property of producing death, is one of the most dreaded and universal superstitions among the natives of the Queensland interior. The apparatus consists of a pointer connected by string with an elongated cylindrical receptacle. The pointer, three to five inches long, is made from a human forearm bone, the string is made from human hair, and the receptacle, which incloses the victim's lifeblood, is fashioned from a shin bone. The "medicine man" of the tribe uses the weapon by aiming the pointer at the person selected for punishment.

One of the most curious of the aboriginal weapons is the "whirler," or "bull roarer." It is made of a flattened piece of gidgee timber cut into spindle shape, into one extremity of which a hole is drilled with a sharpened emu bone. By means of the aperture this whirler is attached to a piece of string fixed at the end of a small stick. Revolving rapidly, the whirler gives out a roaring sound.—London Telegraph.

Venison, Venaison, Venzon.

We have noted methods of cooking venison, but how should it be pronounced—as a two or a three syllable word? Most of us pronounce it as if spelled with a "z" and, as it is derived from the French venaison, this is as it should be. Shakespeare, it is true, treated it as a trisyllable and apparently regarded the "s" as hard, for in "As You Like It" the duke asks, "Shall we go kill us venison?" But his contemporary, Chapman, made but two syllables of it and, that there might be no doubt as to the pronunciation he favored, even spelled it phonetically, thus—venzon.—London Chronicle.

His Bad Break.

"Why on earth do you come to me to borrow money. Billus?" said Harkaway peevishly. "Why don't you go to Jorrocks? He's the prosperous looking member of our set." "That's just it, Harkaway," said Billus. "Jorrocks looks so very prosperous that I am quite sure he spends every penny he makes, but you, old man—why, you dress like a man who saves his money." P. S.—He didn't get it.

Men Are So Uncertain.

"Why did you flit that man who wanted to marry you?" "Because," replied the prima donna, "I couldn't decide whether he was actually in love with me or merely wanted to hear me sing for nothing."—Exchange.

Keeping Up the Supply.

First Man (with magazine)—What a tremendous number of stories Penley Penman writes! Second Man—Doesn't he? They say he uses an incubator to hatch his plots.—Stray Stories.

Virtue alone outbuilds the pyramids; her monuments shall last when Egypt's fall.—Young.

LOST IN LOVE.

All Weathers Were Alike to These Two Dreamers.

A Man and a Maid who walked along the garden paths were observed by the Moon, the Roses and the Night Wind.

"Here come two lovers," chuckled the Moon. "I will shine my silver best for their sakes."

"Here come two lovers," murmured the Roses. "Let us send forth our sweetest perfume to greet them."

"Here come two lovers," sighed the Night Wind. "I will whisper to them of the magic that lies in a summer night."

But the Moon suddenly blotted the smile from his face. "We will not trouble ourselves," he declared. "These lovers are the same two who walked the garden paths but yesternight. And for all we did our best to please them, what did they in return? They spoke no word of my beauty—either of them."

"And they never noticed us," complained the Roses.

"I remember them well," sniffed the Night Wind. "They only said, 'It is a beautiful evening!' and gave us no credit at all—let us do all we can to punish them."

So the Moon hid behind the darkest cloud he could find. And the Roses withheld their perfume. And the Night Wind turned chill and rustled the dry leaves dimly, and even succeeded in finding a few stray raindrops and flinging them in a dank, grayish mist across the garden paths.

"It's a beautiful evening!" said the two lovers—Ella Randall Pearce in Life.

MEXICO HAS HER BASTILLE.

The Building Where the First Blow For Liberty Was Struck.

The Alhondiga de Granaditas (prison) in Guanajuato is one of the most historic buildings in the Mexican republic and will always be remembered not as a storehouse of grain, not as a prison, which it now is, but as the place where the first blow was struck for the liberation of Mexico from Spanish rule. Quadrangular in shape, with a central patio, a row of small Moorish windows near the top, the lower floor Tuscan, the upper Doric, the building has no architectural beauty.

At each corner is a large hook, from which in the days of the struggle for independence were hung four iron cages containing the heads of the great liberators—the patriot priest, Hidalgo; his military chief, Allende, and his comrades, Aldama and Jimenez. Here they hung for years until removed by a worshipping nation to the altar of kings in the cathedral of the City of Mexico.

After the Grito de Dolores and the first ringing of the bell of independence Hidalgo and his followers moved on to Guanajuato, stormed the improvised fort of Alhondiga and killed all the Spanish troops that had taken refuge there. This was the beginning of the eleven years' war of independence.—Frank H. Probert in National Geographic Magazine.

Arrival and Departure of Passenger Trains.

Trains for Portland	Trains from Portland
6:37 A. M.	9:03 A. M.
9:10 A. M.	11:02 A. M.
1:17 P. M.	
4:05 P. M.	5:23 P. M.
2:25 P. M.	6:58 P. M.
1:00 A. M.	2:05 P. M.
16:51 P. M.	12:55 A. M.

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Notice to Tax Payers.
Notice is hereby given that the annual budget meeting for Yamhill county will be held in the Court House at McMinnville on Friday, December 29th, 1916, at 10:00 a. m. A number of items of special interest will be discussed. All tax payers of the county are urged to be present.
J. B. Dodson,
1t
County Judge.

Attention, Widows of Civil War Veterans

It appears by a letter from the Commissioner of Pensions to one such widow here in Newberg who was not married to the soldier until after the war was over but who is now drawing a pension of \$12 per month as his widow, that she will receive the increase of \$8 after she reaches her 70th birthday, and further from another letter to a recently widowed woman who has just asked for a pension, that she will receive \$12 now, and it will be increased to \$20 per month when she is 70 years old, and they were married in 1872. Therefore every war widow of such Civil War veteran should write at once to the Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C., for blank applications.—Veteran.

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