

SHOOTING MESSAGES TO MARS.



SUGGESTED METHOD OF COMMUNICATING WITH MARS.

That Mars is inhabited, scientists are convinced, and for years efforts to communicate with the planet, 35,000,000 miles away, have been made without avail.

That communication between our world and the Martians will one day be established, however, is practically agreed, writes D. S. Landis, a noted scientist. Following the death of an army officer-scientist there came to light papers dealing with interplanetary communication, which suggest a way of putting into execution the long dream of the scientific world.

This officer knew that a rifle ball driven by army powder traveled 1,000 feet per second, and the projectiles of large cannon much faster. But they fell after a time, due to the attraction of the earth.

He estimated that if a projectile could be fired that would travel 26,300 feet per second it would overcome gravity and travel round the earth at a fixed height, returning to its start-

ing place in one hour and twenty-three minutes.

Going farther, he learned that if a velocity of 37,000 feet per second was achieved, the projectile fired from a cannon on the world's pinnacle would pass straight into space, escape the earth's attraction, and instead of falling to the earth, would drop upon the planet nearest it at the time.

This theory, if executed, would make communication with Mars possible. A speed of 37,000 feet per second is not impossible. When the gun and explosive capable of such velocity are discovered, scientists can drop a projectile upon Mars, beyond doubt.

A non-fusible projectile, partially hollowed, could carry messages from this world to any toward which it was directed. The motions of the earth and Mars being known, it would require but little calculation to so fire the projectile that it would, when stopped, be attracted toward its intended destination.

ROYALTIES IN ENGLAND.

Little Prince of Norway Disputed With Kaiser in Popular Favor.

Seldom before has there been a greater gathering of royalties in any European kingdom than that which was seen in England recently. There were, besides the members of the British royal family, the Emperor and Empress of Germany, the King and Queen of Spain, the King and Queen of Norway, and the heir apparent, little Prince Olof, Queen Amella of Portugal and the Infanta Isabella of Spain, the two last being present to attend the marriage of Prince Charles of Bourbon to Princess Louise of Orleans.

Of all the visiting royalties, the Kaiser is the most important and his

sentiment. His father is Haakon VII, who as Prince Charles of Denmark was elected to the throne of Norway in 1905, and his mother is the Princess Maud, third daughter of King Edward and a popular English princess.

BABY WEIGHED FORTY POUNDS.

Obliging Iceman Used His Own Scales—Trouble Follows.

When Assistant Attorney-General Charles W. Lyon, of Iowa, discovered that a forty-pound baby boy had been born to his wife the other day he immediately ordered an investigation of the Des Moines Ice Trust. Ordinarily babies and ice have no intimate connection. But in this instance they had, says the Des Moines correspondent of the New York world.

"When the baby was born the other day the proud father—it was his first born—immediately called for a pair of scales to weigh the youngster. His demand could not be supplied from the house furnishings, but it so happened that a wisp of gauze trailed from the skirt along the floor.

"A pair of scales to weigh the baby?" said the iceman to the questioner, "sure, I have; what do you think I weigh my ice with?"

"Bring them in," said the attorney-general. Then the nurse carefully bundled up the baby and carried him out to the iceman. The beam on the scales shot up when the baby bundle was attached to it.

"How much does he weigh?" questioned the anxious father.

"Just forty pounds," said the iceman, who was a bachelor.

"I knew he was a husky un'," said the proud father, who also didn't know much about babies and he hurried off to his office at the State house to tell the glad news and pass around the cigars.

"How much does he weigh?" was the first question put to the joyous father.

"Forty pounds," the assistant told Attorney-General Ryers.

"Why, you must be crazy," said Gen. Ryers. Then Lyons told the attorney-general just how he knew the baby weighed forty pounds. "I guess all the trouble is that the iceman has been beating you out of thirty pounds of ice every day this summer," was Ryers' comment. And now a petition is about to be filed to dissolve the ice trust.

Beyond Doubt.

When they entered the shop with a limp, dejected air, carrying a pair of checked trousers over his arm, Mr. Solomon looked at him with displeasure.

"They, why do you bring those pants back?" he inquired, severely.

"He would not to keep them," said they, sorrowfully. "He said they were not of any wool pants."

"He did!" cried Mr. Solomon, indignantly. "Here, they, see those mo' holes in dis right leg, my son? Take those pants right away back and show him dose mo' holes!"

At Their Second Meeting.

"May I call you Mabel?" he asked, pausing in his perusal of the menu.

"If you wish to," she said, "but my name is Gertrude."—Pick-Me-Up.

Great Things.

It's easy for the average man To do great things, you'll find; That is, it's easy quite for him To do them—in his mind.

LITERARY LITTLEBITS

"The Devil's Disciple," Bernard Shaw's puritan play, is found "dull" by London theatrical critics. The author of "Man and Superman" and "Major Barbara" is to blame for that.

"The Life of Henrik Ibsen," by Edmund Gosse, is a new volume in the Literary Lives Series. It is valuable inasmuch as it uses a quantity of interesting material which has only become available since Ibsen's death.

Jack London continues to be interested in the fauna of the arctic region and the theory of evolution. The magic of his terrene types, his fearfully strong characters clenched in an elemental struggle with hunger or cold or lust, perhaps does not hit one so forcefully as at first. Yet there are few men writing magazine fiction who manage to get tenser situations or stories more efficiently told.

Mitchell Kennerley, the New York publisher, wishes it to be known that the favorite novelist of King Edward VII is "Victoria Cross." His majesty does not follow in the footsteps of his revered mother, who delighted in Marie Corelli. The first copy of each new work by "Victoria Cross" is forwarded by order to the royal library. It is to be hoped that none of the majestic grandchildren have access to the library.

"Nietzsche, the most original thinker of our age, whose thoughts came to him in snatches," says Arthur Symonds in the Saturday Review, "was concerned for the most part with problems of man, the creature as he is to be seen in the herd and on an occasional mountain top. Take the book which has at last been translated, and admirably, into English, 'Beyond Good and Evil,' a book which is full of magnificent speech, as straight as Whitman's or Carlyle's, but more brilliant, more modern, more cutting than theirs; a book in which ideas are tumbled together, in a dazzling confusion; one of the most vital of books; and look here and there at the criticism, which comes in by the way, mostly criticism of literature, and sometimes as inevitable as this on Petronius, who, more than any great musician hitherto, was a master of presto in invention, ideas and words." But Nietzsche's criticism that music since Beethoven is "not musical enough" is Nietzsche reasoning himself out of his instincts. He does not allow himself to recognize that music is music, not a tendency or a tradition, "and all that he has to say now about music is valueless, because he has ceased to hear it for his own sake, disinterestedly."

A Careful Wife.

Royalties are much like other folk, after all. A pretty little story is told in W. Beatty Kingston's "Men, Cities and Events," which gives a pleasant picture of the present Kaiser's father, then Crown Prince of Prussia, and afterward the Emperor Frederick III. The incident took place at the nuptial ball of the "Pearl of Savoy," now the Queen Dowager of Italy, the well-beloved Margherita. She was dancing when her dress caught in the spur of a cavalry officer, and was so badly torn that a wisp of gauze trailed from the skirt along the floor.

Quickly the Prussian heir apparent came up, produced a dainty little morocco case, took from it a tiny pair of scissors, and kneeling down, deftly cut away the wreckage. When her royal highness had resumed her dance, Frederick William went up to Prince Humbert and craved permission to keep the tatter as a souvenir of the queen-to-be. The request was cordially granted, and the prince carefully folded up the bit of gauze and put it in his pocketbook.

King Victor Emmanuel complimented the young man on carrying such an outfit, even in the ball room.

"The merit belongs to my wife, sire," answered the crown prince. "Long ago she gave me a pocket necessary with all sorts of useful things, needles, thread, buttons, hooks, scissors, and so forth, and made me promise to keep it always about me. What took place just now only proves that I am a lucky fellow to have such a clever wife to look out for me."

Preaching and Practice.

Lord Lawrence, one of the famous Viceroy's of India, was an able and very simple man. He used to do his work in his shirt sleeves, and discouraged as much as possible all state and ceremony. He was inclined to treat the natives like children, although he always strenuously insisted upon their meriting and receiving justice and kindness.

Lord Mayo went to India to succeed him, and on the last afternoon before Lord Lawrence was to leave for home he took the incoming viceroy for a drive. On the way he impressed his doctrine of kindness very emphatically and solemnly on his successor.

Lord Mayo thanked him for his helpful advice, and they returned in due course to Government House. The sycophant, who was slow and awkward in opening the door of the carriage, whereupon Lord Lawrence jumped out in a temper and gave his ear an unmistakable tug. Lord Mayo turned to the viceroy's aid with a smile.

"My first practical lesson in kindness to natives is undoubtedly an odd one," he whispered.

Really superior people do not act superior

BARE SUMMER FALLOW.

Agricultural College Makes Interesting Experiments.

By A. L. Knisel, Oregon Agricultural College

In taking a walk over the farm at the Oregon Agricultural college, looking for interesting and instructive object lessons, there may be seen north of the old barn and just to the south of the path leading to the orchard, an enclosure containing some very interesting experiments. This enclosure contains an oblong box probably ten feet long, three feet wide and three feet deep. In this box are installed four galvanized iron tanks or pots, each holding approximately 500 pounds of soil. Each pot is provided with a drainage spout so that all water leaching through the soil in these pots may be collected and measured and analyzed.

Many farmers practice bare summer fallow and the question often arises as to the good or bad effects arising from this practice.

Should the practice of bare summer fallow be discouraged? It was for the purpose of answering this question that these experiments in the galvanized iron pots were started.

In 1900 all pots were filled with the same soil thoroughly mixed so that each pot was identical with the others. Since that time part of the pots have been bare summer fallowed, whilst others have been growing crops, usually of grain. The leachings from each pot during the rainy season have been carefully saved and analyzed with the result that invariably the leaching from the bare summer fallow pots carried from two to over six times as much nitrogen as did the leachings from the pots that had not been bare summer fallowed. The first few weeks of leachings in the fall carry most of the soluble nitrate nitrogen. The amount of nitrogen leached out of the soil in one month in the fall was equivalent to approximately 6 pounds per acre in soil not summer fallowed and over 40 pounds per acre where the soil had been thoroughly summer fallowed.

From the plant food point of view bare summer fallow cannot be recommended.

Summer fallow aerates the soil, conserves moisture and oxidizes the organic matter of the soil, converting much of the organic nitrogen first into ammonia compounds and then into nitrate nitrogen; that is into a form which easily leaches from the soil and is lost to the farmer, whilst organic nitrogen does not readily leach out of the soil. At times bare summer fallow may be desirable but usually it is to be condemned.

BROOME GRASS.

Director of Experiment Station Says It Has Been Overdone.

By H. T. French, Director Experiment Station Moscow, Idaho.

In response to numerous inquiries regarding our experiences with Bromus inermis, I take occasion to present the following brief account of the results thus far attained on the experiment station farm.

Broome grass has been growing on the farm in small plots, and in pasture fields, for six or seven years. Where it has been allowed to stand unmolested it has produced a dense sod, and comparatively little growth after the second or third year.

Where it has been re-seeded, or the ground disturbed by harrowing, it has made a much better growth. Around the borders of fields where the land is cultivated the growth is rank and coarse. My opinion of broome grass is, that it has been somewhat overestimated for general use; but that it has a place as a grass to be used in out-of-the-way places, where it can not, on account of the nature of the soil, form a dense sod. Such a place would be found on stony land, or rocky hill sides.

It will produce one or two good crops on farm lands, then it should be either plowed up and a crop of grain taken off, or else given a good disking to prevent its forming such a dense sod. This grass, like most of the others, will do best on rich moist land; but at the same time will withstand severe drought, if the sod does not become too dense.

All kinds of stock seem to relish either the grass or hay made from it if it is cut early.

Publications on Farming.

The following publications of interest to farmers and others have been issued by the Agricultural department of the Federal government and will be furnished free, so long as they are available, except where otherwise noted, upon application to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.:

Farmers' Bulletin No. 46.—Irrigation in Humid Climates. By F. H. King, professor of agricultural physics, college of agriculture, University of Wisconsin, and physicist of the Wisconsin agricultural experiment station. Pp. 27, figs. 4. Treats of the necessity, advantages, and methods of supplemental irrigation in humid regions.

Circular No. 65.—Irrigation From Upper Snake River, Idaho. By H. G. Raschbacher. Pp. 16, figs. 1.

Circular No. 67.—Investigations of Irrigation Practice in Oregon. By A. P. Stover, Irrigation Engineer, Irrigation investigations, office of experiment stations. Pp. 30, figs. 4.

Creamed Oysters.

Cook together a tablespoonful of butter and one of flour, and when they bubble pour upon them a large cup of cream or very rich milk, to which a pinch of baking soda has been added, and a gill of oyster liquid. Stir in a smooth sauce, lay in the oysters, season with salt and white pepper, and cook until the edges just begin to curl, then pour in gradually, stirring all the time, two well-beaten eggs. Cook for only half a minute and serve.

FARMS AND FARMERS



Spraying Potatoes.

Careful potato growers can no longer doubt the advantages of spraying in "blight" years; but some doubt whether the practice is profitable year after year. Tests along this line have been continued for five years by the Experiment Station at Geneva; and the evidence presented in Bulletin No. 290, giving details of the fifth year's test and summaries of preceding ones, seems conclusive in favor of the practice. The gain each year has been profitable; and there is already much more than enough excess of gain over cost to pay for spraying five years more. Similar gains, though not quite so great, were obtained by farmers under tests carefully checked by the station and by much larger number of farmers who sprayed independently.

Red Texas Oats.

The strain of the Red Texas oats which has given the largest yield for two seasons and which stands third in order of yield for the four years' trial has been grown at the Kansas station for four years and has seemed to improve rather than to deteriorate in quality and yield. Oats are not considered well adapted for growing in this State. It is the general experience that oats soon "run out" in Kansas, and farmers consider it necessary to secure new seed every two or three years. The trials at the Kansas station, however, indicate that it is not only possible to maintain the quality and yield of oats, but also to even improve them by good culture and by sowing only the best grade.

A Nail Box.

By having a regular and orderly nail box always at hand in some convenient place it may come in handy in an



HANDY NAIL BOX.

emergency. The box with separate compartments for the different sized nails may be easily made by inserting partitions in the box, the size depending the number of apartments desired.

Twig Diseases.

It may not be generally known, but many twig diseases of trees are spread by the pruning tool. The very successful nurseryman dips his pruning knives and saws in a solution of carbolic acid before beginning to prune another tree, so if any germs are on the tool this treatment will destroy them. As soon as a wound is made it is a good idea to disinfect and paint it to keep out the moisture. There is danger of trees contracting disease, as the germs enter the wounds and diseased places result, or the exposed parts will begin to decay as soon as the moisture gets a hold.—Apple Specialist.

Saving the Clover.

It is a failing of the American farmer when a blade of grass or a stem of clover makes a strong showing to try to turn it into beef, mutton or pork. In this effort to utilize it he entirely forgets that the plant may need a little winter protection. He does not understand how little is often sufficient to save the plant from frost destruction. Where the clover is not pastured it is often allowed to perfect its seed, which is as fatal to the crop next year as the winter freezing. Clipping would save the crop where it is so forward as to bloom and perfect seed.—Rural New Yorker.

Beans Fed to Swine.

Beans can be used to swine only in the cooked form. The pig seems to be unable to utilize beans which are all hard or firm, even though they have been boiled for some time; hence it is very essential that they be thoroughly, and carefully cooked, says R. S. Shaw, Michigan. To supply a single feed of half-cooked beans to a pen of hogs robs them of their appetites and relish for their food, if indeed it does not put them off their feed.

The Asparagus Bed.

Burn off the asparagus beds now and clean the ground thoroughly, applying manure plentifully. All bushes and weeds that have not been cleared from the ground will serve as harboring places for mice and insects. When the materials on the surface of the ground which have been destroyed by frost are dry, and the grass also dead, it is not difficult to burn an entire bed over and thus consume many seeds on the ground.

Ben Davis Good Enough.

A Maine farmer who has been making money during the past eleven years from growing Ben Davis apples, recently disposed of a shipment of this fruit at \$4.85 net profit per barrel. When all other apples are past their usefulness, old Ben Davis is good enough for the most of the people.

Guinea Fowls.

It is a hard matter to distinguish the sex of guinea fowls. Some authorities claim that the male chatters in a quick manner, while the female gives off a sound like "O-track" or "Joe Pratt" or "Buckwhet." The male gives a sound similar to a screech, turned into a laugh.



PRINCE OLOF OF NORWAY.

mission to England is interpreted as official and political. The visits of the others are purely social. That the meeting of William II and King Edward will conduce to European peace and to a fuller understanding between the two countries is taken for granted at all the chancelleries of Europe. It is an interesting circumstance that amid all the numerous wars of European history there has never been a breach of the peace between England and Prussia, or between England and Germany, and the meeting between Kaiser and King will undoubtedly bind the two nations more closely together.

While the Kaiser was the center of attraction for statesmen and diplomats and the great of the land, the little Prince of Norway drew the plaudits of the people. Prince Olof is a manly little chap, now a little over 4 years old, and dressed in his sailor suit, as becomes a representative of the Scandinavian race, he appealed strongly to the English imagination and to English