

# The Way of Life

## by BRUCE BARTON

### WISE MEN

I spent a day in the research laboratories of the largest electrical company in the world. If two hundred years ago anybody had predicted the marvels that can be seen there today; the God-fearing citizens of the time would have burned him as a witch.

For example, as you know, the metal radium is constantly giving off little particles which are called electrons. The electron is infinitely smaller than the atom. Indeed, the atom is a comparatively big proposition, a sort of universe with lots of electrons flying around inside it. Of course, neither the electron nor the atom can be seen by any instruments which we have yet devised. But listen to this: The scientists in that laboratory have rigged up a radio apparatus, attached to a loud speaker, which is so delicate that it can detect the flight of electrons through the ether.

I held the dial of my wrist watch against the microphone. The figures on the dial are radium coated. And I could hear the electrons pounding into the loud speaker like a shower of hailstones on a tin roof. On another floor I sat in front of a motion picture screen and saw talking movies of three great scientists of England, Sir Ernest Rutherford, Sir William Henry Bragg, and Sir Oliver Lodge.

Each one of them was photographed in his own laboratory. Each proceeded to perform certain

experiments and explain them. It was thrilling to sit in the living presence of such men and to think how valuable those pictures will be to future generations. Suppose there had been a talking movie of Archimedes demonstrating the lever, or of Newton explaining the discovery of gravitation!

But what stirred me most was not the experiments which these men performed but the spirit of their talk.

Sir Oliver Lodge, for example, picked up a little weight from his laboratory table and let it drop with a thud. "That experiment," he said, "is the simplest that one could possibly perform and yet there is hardly an experiment about which we know less than we do about that."

And, he added, "You are not to suppose that you understand things because you call them names."

He proceeded to talk about the mysterious properties of "empty space," and he concluded with this paragraph: "If ever we find, as I think we are beginning to find, that life and mind need not be associated with matter but can inhabit empty space, then life will not be subject to the troubles of a material organism and existence will be perpetual."

As contrasted with many of our smartest wise-crackers who know everything, these wise men of science admitted frankly that we are only on the furthestmost borderland of knowledge. And that anything is possible—even eternal life.

gest poll showed Pennsylvania wet by a vote of 379,296 to 147,557, more than two and a half to one; yet, in the primary election, Pinchot and Davis, pronounced drys, won by big majorities for governor and senator, respectively.

The dairymen and ice cream dealers seem to have good reason to thank prohibition for part of the increase in the consumption of ice cream. The Industrial Bulletin states that the people of the United States eat almost \$1,000,000 worth of ice cream a day, a total of \$350,000,000 per year.

The Senate committee investigating lobbies and lobbying took a look-in on the activities of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, which had proclaimed a "nation-wide revolt" against prohibition. It developed that the membership of this organization from whom no membership dues or fees were required amounted to only 150,000. The Association had raised by contributions the sum of \$424,091.30 to carry on their work of defeating prohibition. Of this great sum, \$321,260, more than 75 per cent, was contributed by 52 men. The investigation revealed that these 52 men were millionaires and multimillionaires, and that they hoped to be relieved of paying income taxes by repealing prohibition and having the Government again tax liquors, thus making the poor fellows with a thirst pay the taxes for them. A nice bunch of patriots they are.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE SAID AID TO ENGLISH STUDY

Foreign languages, either modern or dead, may be irksome to the high school student but they prove valuable in his mastery of English, a survey of results of placement tests in English at Oregon State college indicates.

Records of 310 entering freshmen have been studied, showing that 133 were deficient in English, 117 were average and 60 superior. Of the first group 44 per cent had had no foreign language study, in the second group 21 per cent were without it, while in the superior group all but 5 per cent had taken at least one foreign language course.

S. E. Graves, north Lexington wheatraiser, was transacting business in the city Tuesday. He reports harvest well over with, and was evidencing no gloom over the showers.



### ACCIDENTS

The most dangerous occupation, according to an industrial survey of New York, is window-cleaning. The chance of an accident to a window-cleaner is nearly nine times as great as that which the artisan making fine machinery and instruments runs, the latter being the least hazardous occupation.

Everybody who has ever watched the window-cleaners at work on the outside of a skyscraper has shuddered at the thought of what would happen if the worker's safety-belt broke while he was cleaning the thirtieth-story windows. The belts do break, occasionally, or the cleaner's foot slips and he falls to his death.

Window sash made with a pivoted interior frame which can be rotated so that both sides of the glass

can be cleaned from the inside are used in a very few buildings. They cost a little more than the ordinary kind, but in a completely civilized world their use will be compulsory.

### FINGERPRINTS

Every reader of detective stories knows that two individuals never leave the same sort of fingerprints, and that the fingerprint records of the great police departments are organized so that the imprint of any known criminal can be referred to at once.

Few realize that in the Department of Justice at Washington is maintained the largest international collection of fingerprint records in the world, comprising photographs of the fingerprints of more than 2,100,000 persons who have been accused or suspected of crime.

Some have proposed that every child's fingerprints be taken when he first enters school, and preserved as a permanent record of his identity. There are many cases in which such records would be invaluable, but we are lax about such things. Half of the states do not even keep a record of births.

### BOOKS

No more than three or four perfect copies are known of the first book printed from movable type, Gutenberg's Bible. The United States of America now owns the finest example of this precious vol-

ume. The last session of Congress appropriated \$1,000,000 with which to buy the Valdebar collection of rare books for the Library of Congress, which contains not only this famous Bible but more than 3,000 other splendid examples of the work of the earliest printers. It has been estimated that it would cost more than \$5,000,000 to duplicate this collection, if duplication were possible.

A thousand years from now men will point to these books and say: "Here are the seeds of our civilization. It began when man learned how to duplicate knowledge by printing and made it free to all sorts and conditions of men."

### RADIUM

The world's most precious metal, worth \$2,000,000 an ounce, now comes exclusively from the Belgian Congo, in Africa. Originally discovered in pitchblende ores in the Joachimstahl, Austria, radium was found for a while mined commercially in Utah, but the discovery of a bed of very rich uranium ore in Africa has put the other producers out of business and enriched the prospector who made the lucky strike.

The cost of radium is due to the difficulty of extracting it from the ore and the danger in handling it. Radium's value is due to the fact that it is constantly changing into other substances, and in the process gives off rays and emanations. These have effects upon the human system similar to those of the x-ray.

Its use in medicine is still in its infancy, but commercially, as the basis of luminous paint for the hands of watches and clocks, air navigation instruments and the like, the demand is large. A single ounce is enough to supply this industrial demand for several years, but no amount of radium as large as one ounce has ever been assembled in one place.

### COLOR

In the Middle Ages the rich merchants of Venice spent so much money in painting their gondolas in brilliant colors, trying to outshine each other, that an edict was passed by the Council of Ten that no other color but black might be used on these floating vehicles of the Venetian canals. And all gondolas have been painted black for five hundred years.

Some have wondered whether there might not be a revival of the old Venetian rivalry in the gaudy colors of modern automobiles.

The matter is one of personal taste. Conservative people and those who do not court attention will always prefer black or plain blue, while the spirit of youth and modernity will continue to express itself in gay green, yellow and red cars.

Rev. and Mrs. Glen P. White and daughter, Miss Mary L., visited at Fossil, their former home, from Monday until Friday of last week.

### W. C. T. U. NOTES.

MARY A. NOTSON, Reporter.

The Literary Digest poll showed a combined vote for repeal and modification of prohibition of 53,537 and 38,624 for enforcement, in the state of Iowa, thus placing Iowa in the wet column. In the recent Republican primary in Iowa, two candidates for governor, Dan W. Turner and Ed M. Smith, who were approved by the drys, polled a total of 342,228 votes, while State Senator

Otto Lange, who ran on a platform opposing the 18th amendment, polled only 22,445. Turner's vote was 228,488, and Smith's vote was 113,740. The Digest poll showed Florida wet by a vote of 34,782 for repeal and modification and 15,921 for enforcement. Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, outspoken dry, daughter of the great dry leader, William Jennings Bryan, received 39,960 votes in the Democratic congressional primary, to 10,590 votes for DeWitt T. Deen who ran as a wet. The Di-

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