



(Aime Telephoto)
HAPPY REUNION—Mrs. Helen B. Overlander, 30-year-old mother of three children who left home because she feared she had cancer, kisses her husband, Sherill, following her return home to Rensselaer, N. Y. Visiting her brother in Stillwater, Okla., Mrs. Overlander said she decided to return home after reading in the newspaper that X-rays proved she did not have cancer.

Spectrum Of The Sun

By J. Hugh Pruett
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One bright day last November, I suddenly noticed on the living room rug an interesting but rather indistinct spot of colored light. Laying a large sheet of white paper on the spot, I saw clearly in an orderly band all the exquisite shades of the rainbow, ranging from red on one side through orange, yellow, green and blue, to violet on the other side. On one of the triangular glass ornaments on the shelves of my wife's cactus window, the afternoon sun had fallen at just the proper angle to produce this spectacular effect.

This band of color is known as a spectrum. This is the Latin for our word "specter," and means an image, an apparition, or a "visible disembodied spirit." Even to disbelievers in ghosts, the solar spectrum hints strongly of something majestically immaterial. To some of us this "chromatic scale" is ethereally gorgeous. We are accustomed to think of these natural colors as the finest found anywhere.

Visitor Appears
Dr. Walter S. Adams, retired director of the Mt. Wilson observatory, tells the story of a man who one day suddenly appeared in the building where Dr. Adams was observing the solar spectrum through a powerful instrument. The visitor remarked that he had done some painting and was familiar with colors. When finally permitted to peer into the instrument and view the green part of the spectral band through a magnifying eyepiece, he took a long look, then came away with an air of disappointed disgust and said, "I don't call that a very good green." Dr. Adams, evidently somewhat surprised replied, "Well, that is nature at her best." The glass prism on the window

shelf did not manufacture the colors on the rug. It simply broke up and spread out those that were already the natural constituents of sunlight. This separation of colors is seen in nature as rainbows in the sky, in spray and dewdrops. The solar light is spoken of by scientists as "white light," and is due to the mixing of all colors. Because of the fact that different colors bend by different amounts when entering or leaving the glass, they are separated and may be viewed individually.

Light Analyzer
The spectroscope, whose principal part is a prism, or other equally-acting apparatus, is an instrument for analyzing light. It shows the solar spectrum as a very long horizontal band of rainbow colors crossed vertically by thousands of short dark lines of various widths and intensities. In earthly laboratories these lines can be produced at the same places on the scale by vaporizing various known substances. When we find these same lines in the spectrum of the sun or of a more distant star, we are given definite information as to the composition of the star's atmosphere. Over 60 known elements are found in the sun.

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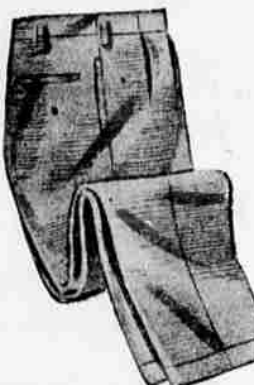
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