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### THE AGE OF ELECTRICITY

This age has been defined by many names. But it is safe to say the "Age of Electricity" best conveys the impression it has created among all thinking people.

The postage stamp is giving way to the telephone. For one in New York can now phone to practically every important civilized city in the world.

The crank on the automobile bows in respect to a little button which you step on with your left foot.

A twist of a dial on the radio and those in San Francisco hear a speech being made in London.

The wonders of the moving, talking, and television picture need no comment here.

We have electric fans to cool us in summer, electrical heat to keep us warm in winter. We make ice, fry eggs, polish shoes, squeeze oranges, press our clothes and run many of our trains by electricity.

The candle taper has been generally replaced by a switch. In many States we even kill our murderers by electricity.

Yet, for every life we take with this mysterious fluid or force or substance -- for we do not even know what it is -- there are thousands of useful lives saved.

For instance, the X-ray makes it possible to explore the deepest recesses of the body, and bring to light the hidden menace of disease. The application of electricity in its various forms helps heal tubercular lungs, removes deep-seated growths, and performs other miracles of healing.

We can congratulate ourselves for living in a country which recognizes the wonders and comforts afforded by that mysterious power -- electricity. - A. G.

### CRIME CONQUERED BY SCIENCE

Prescott Leckey, an instructor in the psychology department of Columbia University, has successfully demonstrated a method of solving a crime by the use of modern scientific procedure.

The crime was the theft of a certain amount of money from the gardener. Two students volunteered to take part in the experiment. They were each given a sealed envelope containing instructions as to what they were to do.

One student was told to go to the school library and wait there until further notice. The other was directed to steal the money. Full instructions were in this student's envelope as to where, when and how he should accomplish the deed. After this was done he was told to wait in front of the School of Mines.

About a half an hour later both students were recalled and questioned. Words relating in some way to the crime were mentioned to them and they were told to give immediately another word that it suggested. The innocent student was able to answer quickly and easily. The guilty student, on the other hand, had to hesitate for a fraction of a second in order to think of a word that would not incriminate him. An electrical stopwatch measured the time taken for the replies and the guilty one was found. - H. S.

### THE ATOM

Symmetry seems to have been nature's method of creating the various atoms, elements, worlds and universes. The atom can be likened to an infinitesimal universe. The electrons revolve around the proton of an atom in the same manner as the planets revolve around the sun. The only difference between the atom and the universe is that the planets differ in size while the electrons are all the same in weight and volume. The electrons rush about at a terrific velocity. If two or more electrons were to collide before man knew how to harness the power involved, the result would probably destroy the entire earth. - HERMAN D. KAIDOR.



RESULTS OF DEBATES

Over a period of several months, we have held a number of debates on scientific or semi-scientific questions. It is interesting to review the results of these debates, which, it should be said, do not always indicate the position of the majority of the members. In the following list, the word "yes" after the question denotes a victory for the affirmative; "no" for the negative.

Will Science Supersede Religion? (No)

Will the Use of Robots Benefit Mankind? (Yes)

Is Physical Immortality Desirable? (Yes)

Is the Airplane More Practicable Than the Dirigible? (Yes)

Will Insects Ever Dominate Man? (No)

Is Environment the Greatest Factor in Human Development? (Yes)

Is Reincarnation a Fact in Nature? (Yes)

Results of other debates will be reported in a future issue of this paper.

NEW STAR STRUCTURE THEORY

That the structure of a star is something like that of an egg, a dense yolk in the center surrounded by lighter material, is the new theory proposed by Prof. E. A. Milne of Oxford University, in a recent lecture.

In the "yolk" the temperatures are far higher than astronomers have ever calculated for the interior of a star. Furthermore, this nucleus is extremely dense, according to Prof. Milne. The density of the "yolk" may reach the maximum possible for ionized matter, that is, matter in which all the atoms are broken up into separate electrons. When these atoms are ionized, or broken up into their constituents, the matter in the "yolk" can be condensed far beyond anything familiar to us in any substance known on earth. — NATHAN GREENFELD.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Through the agency of Nathan Greenfeld, arrangements have been made to exchange papers every month with the Bay State Science Club. They publish a very interesting bulletin called "The Asteroid."

PROFESSOR CLAUDE TRIUMPHS

Prof. Georges Claude, the French scientist, has at last succeeded in laying the mile-long undersea tube which is so necessary for the success of his project. It is Prof. Claude's aim to obtain cheap energy from the Gulf Stream by utilizing the tremendous power that lies in the difference between the warm water of the surface and the cold water from the ocean depths. The giant tube is used to draw the cold water from the depths far below the Gulf Stream.

Twice before has Prof. Claude attempted to sink the great tube but was unsuccessful; the first time because of a mechanical defect and the second because of sabotage laid to power interests.

The success of this project will mean so much to the world that it cannot be told in mere words. Let us all wish the professor full success in his venture, for, being a true scientist, he is working for the betterment of the world.

— HERBERT SMITH.

ASTRONOMICAL MYSTERIES (III)

Whence Came the Minor Planets? Between Jupiter and Mars a swarm of little planets chase each other around the sun, rushing through the dark, cold space just as regular planets do, but astonishing us by their smallness, their great numbers and their mysterious origin. There are more than a thousand of these pocket-edition planets that are known and catalogued and there are probably thousands more not yet discovered.

Are they the remnants of a shattered planet? Astronomers used to think that possible; now they think not. And what happens to them? Perhaps one or two of them are captured by the planets now and then and made to serve as moons. Jupiter, it is thought, may have gotten one or more of his nine moons that way.

The real answer to these questions, however, remains for some brilliant astronomer to solve. — ALLEN GLASSER.

(Next month's article will discuss What Are the Comets?)



POWER FROM THE TIDES

Power may be obtained from the daily rise and fall of the tides, but so far, schemes for this purpose have met with very limited success. Although the rise and fall of the tide may be determined exactly in advance, this is heavily counterbalanced by its slowness.

There are a great many technical problems to be solved before a tidal-power project can be undertaken with any confidence. On the other hand, the possibilities of tidal power, if it can be developed, are very great. The tides rise and fall all over the world; and if a method of utilizing tidal power is found, the entire world will then have a cheap source of energy.

- HERBERT SMITH.

TELEPATHY

Webster defines telepathy as "the affection of one mind by the thoughts or emotions of another without communication through ordinary channels of speech or sensation."

No definite or convincing proof either for or against telepathy has been put forward. An alleged instance of telepathy frequently cited is this: A person is about to make a certain remark or voice an opinion when his companion mentions the identical subject. This may be merely coincidence; though it does happen quite frequently.

In any event, the question of telepathy and its possibilities provide much food for thought. - MORTIMER WEISINGER.

NOTICE: The Scienceers meets every Saturday night at 266 Van Cortlandt Avenue, near Mosholu Parkway, Bronx, New York. Discussions and debates on scientific subjects are held every week. Information about the club and its activities appears every Friday in the New York "Evening World" among news of the Yosian Brotherhood, with which it is affiliated.

THE MONARCH OF MARS

He sits alone, on a crimson throne,  
The last of a dying race;  
And his ruby crown seems to weigh  
him down,  
As he stares into empty space.

He thinks once more of the years before,  
When he ruled o'er a planet proud;  
And he hears again the acclaim of men  
Who are now but dust in the shroud.

He, too, must pass on, where the rest  
have gone,  
To that sphere from which none come  
back;

And a lifeless globe, in a blood-red  
robe,

Shall career on its destined track.  
- ALLEN GLASSER.

CURRENT SCIENCE FICTION

Quite a treat is in store for readers of scientifiction during the month of October.

First on the bill, of course, is the new fantastic novel, "The Snake Mother," by A. Merritt, which starts in the October 25th issue of ARGOSY. This is the long-awaited sequel to "The Face in the Abyss," and it is sure to receive a hearty welcome.

In the current (November) issue of ASTOUNDING STORIES we have "The Pirate Planet," by Charles W. Diffin; "Vagabonds of Space," by Harl Vincent; and "The Wall of Death," by Victor Rousseau.

AMAZING STORIES for November contains the first part of "The Drums of Trapajos," by Capt. S. P. Meek; "The Cosmic Express," by Jack Williamson; and other stories by Starzl, Keller, and Coblentz.

The November issue of WONDER STORIES marks its first appearance in a smaller size. This number contains "The Invulnerable Scourge," by John Scott Campbell, and "Hornets of the Void," by R. F. Starzl, among others.

- A. G.

A quatrain is a four-line rime  
That's never out of place.  
It can be used at any time  
To fill an empty space.



BRANCH NEWS

There has been a change of officers in the Scienceers Branch 1, Clearwater, Fla. The Vice-President, Wallace Dort, having moved to Tampa, Stanly Dort, formerly the Secretary, was appointed to that position. Guy Cole was elected Secretary.

As mentioned last month, this branch was founded by Carlton Abernathy, who is now President of the club. He and his associates are to be congratulated on the splendid progress they have made in a comparatively short time.

A second branch of The Scienceers is being organized in Temple, Texas, by Gabriel Kirschner of that city. We have no further information at the present writing; but we hope to be able to report the successful establishment of the Temple branch in our next issue.

NOTE: Contributions to this paper from branch members are welcome, provided they are short and of general scientific interest. They should be modeled after the articles in this issue. Remember -- our space is limited.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

The question frequently arises: "Is there a conflict between Science and Religion?"

There may be some quarrel between groups of fanatics on either side. But, to an impartial observer, there is no conflict, and no cause for it.

These two great factors in modern life are totally different. Religion, dealing with things of a spiritual nature, is not concerned with Science, which deals only with material things. Yet paradoxically, the two are alike. For both are striving to better the condition of humanity, each in its own field. Fundamentally, then, there can be no real dispute between Science and Religion.

- CARLTON ABERNATHY.

Clearwater, Florida.

X-RAYS

"Nature Made Serious Mistake Evolving Man, Scientist Says" -- Headline.  
We think so too, sometimes.

A statistician declares that if all the sausages consumed annually in this country were laid end to end they would reach to the moon and back.

That's a lotta bologna!

There's no use crying over spilt milk  
-- there's water in it anyway.

Prof. Einstein was once asked to give a simple example of relativity. He answered: "If you hold a pretty girl on your lap for an hour, it seems like a minute; but if you sit on a hot stove for a minute, it seems like an hour."

Martian radio fan (tuning in on terrestrial jazz-band): "Confound that static!"

Believe it or not, when we started this column we hadn't an idea in mind, and yet -- who said "it looks that way"?

Our staff scientist, Prof. I. Mabie Wright, claims that the star Sirius is so heavy it could crush Primo Carnera.

Are you Sirius, Professor?

As the chorus-girl said to her sugar-daddy: "So long. I'll sue you later."

- A. G.

QUININE

A traveler in the South American wilds, stricken with ague, paused at a jungle pool to quench his thirst. The water was very bitter, but the traveler drank a great quantity of it. To his surprise he soon began to feel better and finally his fever left him. Assuming that the bitter water had effected the cure, the man investigated and found that the bitterness was caused by the bark of a tree that had fallen into the pool. Thus quinine was discovered.

- PHILIP ROSENBLATT.

