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THEORIES ABOUT THE SUN.

No Immediate Danger That It Will Burn Itself Out.

The current theories concerning the sun and the planets are that the sun was once vastly hotter than it is now, and that for a long period it has been slowly but steadily cooling. This doctrine is built on the notion that the sun is a mass of fire in progress of intense and fierce combustion, and that, like any other fire, unless its fuel is replenished, it must burn out and become extinguished. Some astronomers teach that the sun is supplied with fuel by vast quantities of comets and meteors that are shoveled into it by some process of nature, but other astronomers like Sir Robert Ball reject the possibility of any such systematic supply of fuel, and they believe that the sun as it burns out shrinks in size at the rate of 220 feet of its diameter in a year. As the mass of the sun is something like 880,000 miles in diameter, it is calculated still to last for a good long time, but there is something extremely melancholy and saddening in the idea that our grand luminary will one day burn out with a spasmodic gleam and a whiff of ill-smelling smoke like the snuff of a candle.

It is with great satisfaction that we are allowed to believe in the possibility that the sun is made of radium, and that it can continue to give off heat and light for an inconceivable lapse of ages without being in the least diminished either in size or capacity to warm and illuminate us. The idea that it is not losing 220 feet of its diameter yearly is particularly consoling.

There is another suggestion which would enable our solar system to continue its operations without either suffering an instantaneous conflagration or being consumed by slow combustion, and this is that the sun and the various bodies which revolve around it constitute an electric dynamo and an incandescent lamp on such a scale as could be designed and created by combined omniscience and omnipotence, to go on its beneficent course forever. Such a notion meets only the contempt of science, which insists upon the existence of actual fire in the sun, that must sooner or later burn itself out to complete extinguishment. Until, however, astronomers like Prof. Langley shall make a flying machine without balloon attachment that will enable human beings to fly, their vagaries concerning the playing-out of the sun may well be neglected by all except full-fledged scientists. —From the New Orleans Picayune.

Women Agree Not to Kiss.

A little red button worn by some 300 women, old and young, married and indifferent, among the leading social sets of the City of Mexico marks a new departure, or rather a new step, in progress. This little, round red button signifies membership in what is known as the Anti-Kissing League. Members of the league take solemn pledge not to kiss each other, in public or private, but put it on the ground that kissing is contagious, or, rather, the means of conveying contagious diseases from one fair lip to another.

There is nothing visible to the naked eye in the constitution of this league against kissing other than members of the female persuasion, and, in fact, the practice, aside from the supposed danger of infection, is decidedly, to the male sense, not only deplorable, but unnecessary. When one woman takes two or three minutes of time in a street car to kiss three or four other women before alighting from the car she certainly violates the golden rule by making all those passengers wait. How far this new league will conduct its offensive and defensive campaign remains to be seen.

Field hospitals for sick and disabled horses is to be part of the war equipment of a British army in the future. Two have been formed in England, and the system is proving satisfactory in India. The Japanese have adopted it in Manchuria, where the loss of animals is only 6 per cent.

"Little Japan."

There is one illusion about Japan which seems to survive evidence and to work most serious political mischief. The continental powers, and Russia more especially, cannot get rid of the belief that the island empire, however brave or astute or lucky its children may be, is, after all, but a "little" state, which in a very short time must "bleed to death."

It is not very easy to trace the origin of this belief, unless it be the habit of expecting great size in all Asiatic empires, or of comparing the area of Japan with that of Russia itself. So compared, Japan is, of course, a little place, which looks on the maps almost insignificant. Compared, however, in a more sensible way, with the other island empire which has so long been one of the great powers of the world, Japan is by no means small. Its total area, without counting Formosa, is by 27,000 square miles greater than that of the British Isles, and as large a proportion of it is fertile and thickly populated. That population, again, is 44,000,000, or 3,000,000 greater than our own (1901), 6,000,000 greater than that of France, and almost equal to that of Austria-Hungary.

If the word "little," again, refers to strength for war, that strength is in many respects superior to our own. We would probably destroy the Japanese fleet, but the Japanese fleet has destroyed that of Russia, and could, if allowance is made for position, maintain a contest with that of France or Germany which would not be absolutely hopeless. As regards soldiers, Japan has a conscription, and the conscription obviously works. Within the last six months the country has sent out six armies, each nearly equal to either of the forces that contended at Waterloo. We thought we had done a great thing when we sent 80,000 men to India in 1857, and an extraordinary one when we transported 200,000 men to South Africa in 1900. But Japan has transported more than 400,000 men across the sea, and is now defying the Russians at Liaoyang and Port Arthur with armies greater in the aggregate than that which Napoleon III. mobilized for the invasion of Germany.—London Spectator.

When the Hog Liars Met.

The other day we heard two men talking about hogs. One of them said: "There is no telling how much a man can lift with one hand. Yesterday I sold a hog that weighed 350 pounds, and I could lift him from one pen into another easily with one hand. I commenced to do that when he was a little pig, lifting him every day from one pen into the other by the ear with one hand." Said the other: "I do not doubt it, for I have done the same thing, and I will tell you another thing I did. I built two pens close together and put a pig in one of them. I fixed up that pen for a bedroom and fed him in the other. I made a hole in the partition just large enough for him to crawl through comfortably, and every time he was fed he had to go through that hole. Well, yesterday I sold that pig, and he weighed just 400 pounds. He seemed to get through the hole on the last day as easily as he did on the first." Liar No. 1 hung his head a minute and then said: "I don't believe a danged word of that!" —From the Bolton (Tex.) Democrat.

Travelers Find Chamberlain's Cough Remedy Everywhere.

Mr. C. W. Eckerman, manager of the Smith-Premier Typewriter Co. at Omaha, Nebraska, U. S. A., who is a staunch friend of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, says: "I have taken particular notice that this remedy seems to be carried by drug stores in all parts of the country, which is quite an item when one is traveling. It gives me pleasure to say that I have used it for years and have always found it highly satisfactory, effecting a cure in a shorter time than any other medicine." For sale by the Hilo Drug Co.

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Hilo, April 16, 1901.