

AS OF THE HEAVENS

Mars Inhabited by a Race of Beings Superior to Us.

THE HUMAN BODY EXAMINED

It is Made Up of a Mass of Crawling and Voracious Parasites—Results of a Glance Through the Electric Eye.

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Fourteen years ago a young man in this place was standing in an exposed house during a severe thunder storm. There came a blinding flash of lightning which entered through an open window, stunned the young man, crashed through a mantle into a fireplace on the opposite side of the room, and spent its force in the ground underneath. When the young man recovered, his eye rested on a china plaque had stood, snow white, upon the mantel. Afterward its crystal surface was marked by an angular streak of black, as if a piece of charcoal had been drawn zig-zag over it.

This peculiar circumstance set the young man to thinking. He had always been a student of the occult, and the mystery of that electric photograph puzzled him and he decided to master it. It took him fourteen years of patient and incessant study to do so; of experimentation with crude tools and under great disadvantages; of a persistent and self-denying toil, often performed amidst the jeers of persons who lightly pronounced him an enthusiast and a "crank." But the young man at last succeeded, and in doing so added new and far-reaching fields of inquiry to the domain of modern science.

The Instrument Exhibited.

The investigator was Professor Jesse C. Coles, the result of his inquiry is compiled in an instrument called the "Electric Eye," of which The Tribune, more than a year ago, printed a partial description. At the time of this former publication the professor had not perfected his mysterious mechanism to the degree which he thought would warrant a public exhibition. He promised, within a few weeks, to explain by actual demonstration much that seemed incredible. An attack of illness, ending in blood poisoning kept him from the redemption of his promise until last Saturday night, when a party of Scrantonians came to Kingston as the guests of Dr. D. B. Hand and were accorded an evening's observation of the "Electric Eye" and, through the "Eye," a glimpse at Mars, then in unrivalled brilliancy in the western heavens. The things which entered the eye were seen, one after another, by six adult persons who had not previously partaken of so much as a drop of Sarsaparilla, and who were seen in an atmosphere originally saturated, so far as the majority of the party was concerned, with profound skepticism; they are the unmediated facts of the matter, told in the accurate language of exact description, such as would pass as first class evidence in any court of law, and which we need not read this article will not believe it.

Looks Like a Magic Lantern.

The "Electric Eye" in the construction of which Professor Coles passed the greater part of fourteen years, having often no better tools than a jack-knife and a pair of pliers, in appearance resembles an ordinary stereopticon, doubled in size. It stands upon a box-like frame and is mounted on a rotating platform. The things which enter the eye are seen, one after another, by six adult persons who had not previously partaken of so much as a drop of Sarsaparilla, and who were seen in an atmosphere originally saturated, so far as the majority of the party was concerned, with profound skepticism; they are the unmediated facts of the matter, told in the accurate language of exact description, such as would pass as first class evidence in any court of law, and which we need not read this article will not believe it.

Polygons and Leeches.

The first experiment of the evening consisted of an examination of ordinary rain water. Under the eyes of the professor's house stood a barrel partly full of stagnant drippings. One of the visitors fetched a tumblerful, which to all appearances was clear and as pure as the most crystalline spring of water. A common pin was passed to half its length into this water. The pin was then held up and on its point held a small globe of water probably as large as a grain of fine table salt. This water was placed over the minute aperture which was likened to the eye of a cambric needle, and not more than one-tenth of the water reached the interior of the "Eye." An electric circuit was then formed, the positive wire was screwed up until from the mechanism's interior came a sound like the ticking of a wheezy clock. Ten seconds later, the room was partially darkened and the visitors were invited to "take a look at the professor's aquarium."

In the interior of the mechanism a vivid light shone, of a peculiarly soft and yet distinct quality. It resembled bottled sunlight, and that is what it was, according to the professor's statement. In the glow of this illumination the spectator beheld a globe of water easily two feet in diameter, partially filled with most beautiful vegetation, like moss and small shrubs. Swarming about it were the glowing organisms of spore-filled fluid were hundreds of little micro-organisms, magnified so that some seemed as long and large as the familiar tadpole of one's boyhood days. Several were even longer than this, approximating in size the ordinary leech. The great majority of these living, swimming, beings were smaller than this, however, and looked like enlarged editions of what boys call "wigglers" that inhabit rain water when it has stood for several days exposed to the sun's rays.

Beer Not Fit to Drink.

"The 'Eye' tonight," said Professor Coles, "is not working under full pressure. I am saving its strength for the view we shall take of Mars. When the 'Eye' is placed under its maximum pressure, it will magnify 140,000 diameters, and the micro-organisms, or animals as I call them, which just now looked like little blue worms will appear to be as large as ordinary brook trout. In fact, it will be seen that every particle of the water that we drink is literally inhabited not only by one or two of these animalcules, but by myriads of them, together with masses of vegetation which, as magnified in the 'Eye,'

resemble the sea mosses and sea weed that a receding tide deposits on the ocean's shore.

"High," exclaimed one of the three ladies who do not believe I can ever manage to drink water again." "What will you drink?" I inquired. "Beer," they replied. "I suppose Professor Coles will give you a glass of beer." "Then," was the cheerful response, "you'll simply swallow the same kind of monsters, in another form; and if you wish, you'll swallow uglier ones and more of them than you've seen tonight. Why, the merest particle of beer, under the 'Eye,' discloses great masses of vegetation on which long, green, repellent looking worms and insects are creeping and feeding. Beer is about the worst stuff I know of, and milk is a pretty close second. But now, if you wish, I will show you what the human epidermis looks like."

Parasites on Our Bodies.

Upon the professor's request, one of the ladies bared her forearm over the little aperture into which the main water had been placed—the aperture had meanwhile been made perfectly dry—and rubbed her finger three or four times over the instruments searching focus. She said in the lady's belief that she has always been a devout and consistent believer in the doctrine that cleanliness is next to godliness, and takes her daily bath as regularly as she says her daily prayer. To the ordinary eye, nothing dropped from her wrist as a result of this operation, and several of the spectators were inclined to treat the test as a joke.

But when the "Electric Eye" was turned on, the lady was accorded the courtesy of a first glance at the minute fraction of herself which the professor assured his guests had got into the instruments searching focus. She fairly shrieked in amazement. Pictured against the instrument's background were dozens of fan-like, translucent scales ranging in size from flattened peeling of a goldfish's skin on to the dimensions of the palm of one's hand. Great black streaks appeared on the skin, and these, which at first were short, but presently there were signs of life, and soon a little insect the size of a bed bug scooted from one scale to another. He was followed by others, number and larger until the course of a few moments the entire perspective became one mass of living, moving, crawling insects. One of the insects was as large as the ordinary house spider. Several resembled large roaches. Others seemed to be like the greenish, many-legged, saw-clawed millipede which the lady had seen on her tobacco or tomato leaves. These chased each other madly in and around these big scales of abraded epidermis, some climbing up over the scales and shaking them after the manner of crickets or pinching bugs when clambering over small, dried leaves. The big fellows seemed to be in pursuit of the smaller ones, and now and then voracious rascal would gulp down an unfortunate youngster with the calm unconcern of the monster pickled fish when he makes a dainty morsel of a captured shiner.

Is a Mass of Living Germs.

"The particles of epidermis which look so large through this instrument," explained Professor Coles, "are in reality inconceivably small. You could not see them as Mrs. W. brushed them off; yet only a small percentage of those that she separated from the epidermis of her arm fell into the feed-hole of the 'Eye.' There are, as you see, probably a thousand of these diminutive parasites in the view at which you are looking. Yet all of these together could stand at the point of the finest needle ever invented, and yet not feel crowded. Upon a square inch of human epidermis there must be millions upon millions of perfectly developed living organisms, as intelligent in proportion, as are the insects that we daily encounter among plants and ferns and shrubs. I am sure as that I am handling the material that the human body is literally made up of these parasites; that they constitute the motive power of our existence, so to speak, and that, if we could understand the mechanism of each one of these infinitesimal beings in turn would be found to be just as thickly inhabited by them as the smaller parasites. Our commonest science, for instance, claims to have discovered that the ordinary house fly is inhabited by fly-lice. I propose before I get through with my tonight to prove to the scientists of the day-lice also have lice on them; and furthermore, I am going to show these lice that live on the house fly, just as clearly as I have shown you the parasite that inhabits Mrs. W.'s arm. I cannot do this with my present instrument, for it is crude and imperfect in many particulars; but I hope to show you the lice that live on the house fly with a new and larger instrument which will enlarge the magnifying power of the present 'Electric Eye' four or five times over."

Inhabitants of Our Blood.

The professor was asked to exhibit some human blood. The same lady who had supplied the epidermis kindly volunteered to sacrifice a drop of her vital fluid to the cause of science. The most scientific of the party, visible to the human eye, was placed, as before. The spectacle presented was marvellously beautiful. It seemed as if a rainbow of colors and combinations of colors had been brought into play. White corpuscles as large as hen's eggs floated around in a pool of colorless fluid, alternating with great masses of red blood corpuscles. As many as seven different kinds of corpuscles were disclosed, whereas the physiologists up to this moment have held that there are only two kinds, red and white.

When Dr. Hand looked at these floating bodies of fibrin and fat, he turned quickly around to Mrs. W. and said: "Your blood is in a very bad condition. It needs phosphates and iron. The white globules should be round and distinct; they are, instead, flat and deformed. You will need to go under a treatment of mild tonics."

"Now," said Professor Coles, "you come to one of the most important uses of my machine. I contend that by a series of studies of the human blood through the powerful magnifier it will be possible to make diagnosis an absolute certainty. The physician will be able to ascertain at a glance exactly what his patient is afflicted with, and can apply the requisite cure without a moment's delay, watching its effects with the microscope. As I have said before, the 'Eye' tonight is under low pressure. When it is magnifying its maximum number of diameters, you can see in the blood floating around among the corpuscles, just such living organisms as you saw a few moments ago playing among the scales of Mrs. W.'s epidermis. The blood is the medium of exchange between these tiny travelers. The veins and arteries are the rivers that they swim in and the blood is the water that flows in those rivers."

Brief Glimpses of Mars.

By this time, the planet Mars had reached the fulness of its brilliancy and shone, like an immense gem, in the eastern firmament. "Let us take a peep at the sphere which the scientists are having so much trouble over," said the professor. "Do you mean to tell us," was the reply, "that your microscope is at one and the same time an equally powerful telescope?" "I do. Yes, I know it is 'contrary to science.' A good many things that we say and see and know are 'contrary to science'; but then, you know, science isn't absolute. I used to believe what you say, but now I am getting ready to revise the text books."

But how do you keep the 'Eye' fixed on a moving star? By the time you get it focused on Mars, Mars will have moved thousands of miles out of range, will it not?"

"I am glad you asked that question. If the 'Eye' were an ordinary telescope, yes, but it isn't. It is as nearly like the human eye in the particular you mention as a crude human mechanism is like a microscope. When you look at a moving train, does the train get out of range while you are adjusting the focus, or does your eye move in

union with the train? To be sure, it moves. Well, its that same principle which governs the 'Electric Eye.' But let us see for ourselves."

"At present the mechanism was pointed out the eastern door, properly elevated and nicely focused. "Now is your time," exclaimed the professor, "to test the accuracy of the view of Mars. You can see every detail distinctly."

Seemed Only Four Miles Away.

The panorama that unfolded itself bore a striking resemblance to any that had preceded. It looked like a landscape such as one would see, standing on one range of hills and looking across a valley three or four miles wide, to the opposite hills. There was a white center, which looked as if it might be water—possibly a lake. On the nearer side of the hills stood mountains in the hills, their sides and slope dotted in places by dim objects which looked like towering tropical palms. In the background, another range of hills, set down at the top by a white, misty substance which might have been fog or snow, completed the view.

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The Principle of the Thing.

"Upon what principle does this mechanism work?" Professor Coles was asked. "Upon the principle of light linked to an electric current, and the current is electricity. Light and the current, and you have a speedy team."

But how did you come to think of this?"

"By reason of the thunder storm and the china plaque that I told you of, a while ago."

"But Mars inhabited?"

"To the best of my belief, it is, and by a race superior in intelligence to our own. Mars has three satellites, each stronger than our moon. Yes, I know school books and now and then voracious rascal would gulp down an unfortunate youngster with the calm unconcern of the monster pickled fish when he makes a dainty morsel of a captured shiner. I have seen them. Besides, speaking of the Marainians, they get ten or a dozen miles out from the earth, and let me figure it out that their night sky is our brightest day. They must, therefore, be more intelligent than we. Light means brains, always."

But what about the disturbances said to be going on in Mars? Are they real, or are the astronomers dreaming?"

"They are real enough. I have reason to believe that Mars, at its southern pole, is not so far from the earth as you think. Great eruptions and internal convulsions have been occurring there during the past few months. The equatorial zone is solid enough. Here the country is in a fine state of cultivation. It is laid out into rivers and lakes and canals. I haven't been able to identify any human being on Mars, but the application of Radway's Ready Relief will afford immediate ease, and its continued use for a few days effect a permanent cure."

Plans for the Future.

"What are your plans, professor?" "Well, they will depend somewhat on circumstances. I am building a workshop, where I shall have the proper tools and light and expect to employ some skillful physician make a study of all the germs of disease, in the identification and treatment of which there is a fabulous fortune. Then I propose soon to publish a book which is already in manuscript, on 'The Human Body as Seen Through the Electric Eye.' Strange as it may seem, I propose to try to prove to the scientists of the day that the human body is not so small as we think. If my experiments succeed, electricity, as an illuminant, will be outclassed by conserved sunlight, which we can plainly see, safer and cheaper. This sounds to ordinary ears like a fairy tale, I'll admit; but it is the actual fact, based on long and hopeful experiments. The human body has been handicapped in every way. Now I have means, friends and renewed health, and a new 'Eye' four times as effective as the one you have just seen, is a probability. And after what you had seen, what could one say?"

AN AMATEUR'S ORDER.

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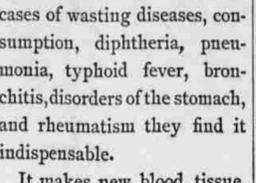
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