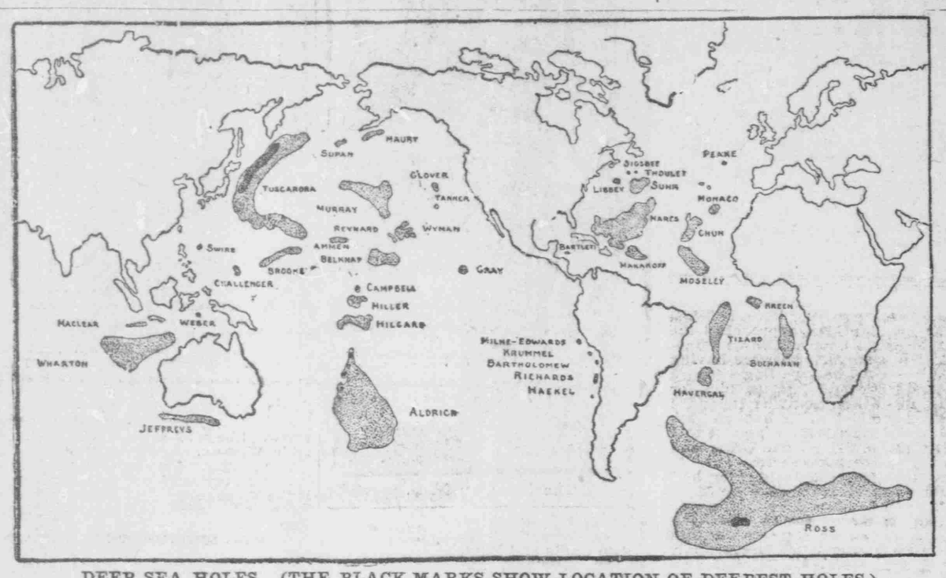
Earth's Deepest Holes.

Artificial Pits Go Down Toward the Center More Than a Mile, But the Natural Chasms In the Ocean Beds Are Five Times That Depth.

Back in the days when people really thought it possible to dig a hole through the earth to China there used to be much speculation over what would become of a man who happened to fall into the hole; would he stop falling down after awnile and begin to fall up to the other side of the earth, or would gravity keep him oscillating back and forth like a pendulum slowly coming to rest? Now nonsensical as this may seem, we are actually approaching a condition when a somewhat similar question must be asked. Several holes have been dug deep enough into the earth to encounter physical conditions very different from those usually found on the surface.



DEEP SEA HOLES. (THE BLACK MARKS SHOW LOCATION OF DEEPEST HOLES.)

Some of these holes are in the form of wells which are a mile deep in the older rock. Others extend even farther down into salt beds and furnish this most widely used flavoring commodity. Still others are mines which men work at a level as deep as that of the wells. And in this ocean bed there are holes so deep that if the highest mountains in the world were to be dropped into them there would still be plenty of room for ships to sail safely over their summits.

Near Pittsburg, Pa., a well has been dug 5,532 feet deep, that is, 252 feet more than a mile. Near Wheeling, W. Va., they are sinking a well which is now within a few hundred feet of a mile deep. At last report they had reached the 4,920-foot level. At Sperenberg, near Berlin, Germany, they are driving a hole in gypsum beds which is already 4,559 feet deep, and it is getting deeper every day. At Schaldabach, near Leipzig, they are taking salt from a well which is even deeper than the Pittsburg well. This hole is 6,265 feet deep. The Red Jacket shaft of the Calumet & Hecla mine in the Lake Superior copper district is a mile deep and men work in the shaft. Nearby, the Tamarack mine has a shaft nearly as deep as the Red Jacket. But at Paruschowitz, near Reibnik, in eastern Silesia, there is a well which is now 6,700 feet deep, or exactly 100 hundred feet more than a mile and a quarter. They are still boring and it is the intention to go down 8,800 feet, or one and two-thirds miles, when some interesting scientific experiments will be made. Unquestionably this is now the deepest artificial hole in the world.

But in this race far into the earth's core there are other competitors, other well holes which are not quite as deep as these big ones, but which are pressing them hard. They are mostly in Germany. At Leith, near Altona, there is a hole 4,388 feet deep. At Eu near Strassfurt, they have gone down 4,241 feet. At Lubtheen in Mecklenburg, they are still digging at 3,949 feet. At Sennewitz, near Halle, 3,644 feet has been reached. At Inowrazlaw, Posen, drills are working at 3,624 feet, while at Friedrichsane, near Aschersieben, they have punched a hole in the earth 3,543 feet deep. At St. Louis, Mo., we have a well which will stand comparison with these German wells. It is over half a mile deep and several of them have passed the three-quarter mark.

Conditions Encountered In Depths.

Many of these deep holes have been made the subject of scientific investigations, and as they are widely separated, individual characteristics have been encountered in each. Yet there is a very general co-relation in all which stands as evidence not only of the present internal condition of the earth, but also of its age. These holes show, in fact, that in some places the earth at a mile or so below the surface is at hot as the boiling point of alcohol; at other places men work a mile under the surface in a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit, a heat not greater than that of an average New York June day. When the Savage mine in the Comstock Lode was connected at the half mile level with the Gould & Curry mine, the temperature of the connecting gallery ranged from 137 degrees at one end to 145 degrees at the other.

At the bottom of that five-mile pit in the ocean which yawns between the Kermadecs and the Friendly islands, the temperature stays always near the freezing point of water. There are many of these deep ocean holes in which the temperature is very low. And while the lack of heat is induced by the water and its pressure, it yet bears a certain relation to the condition of deep holes in the continents when the general effect on the earth's crust is considered. For when the theory of the earth's internal heat is looked at superficially it would seem that these deep sea pits should be very hot and full of boiling water, since they are nearer to the center of the earth than any other point. But in this matter of temperature there is much to be said concerning the conducting properties of the rock in which te holes are sunk. Also, it must be noted, at what depth below sea level each hole starts.

Utility of Temperatures.

As these wells all get hotter and hotter as they are driven deeper and deeper, the outcome suggested is, that as soon as a sufficient depth is reached, natural steam will be encountered, or if the well be dry, water can be pumped in and returned in the form of marketable vapor. There is nothing chimerical in this idea, since many buildings in several parts of the world are heated with naturally warm well water. The hospital at Grenelle and large factories in Wurtemburg are notable examples. Also the geyser shows how heat from the earth's interior may manifest itself forcibly on the surface. Hence temperature measurements are being made in all of the wells as they are drilled. In this country the heat increases on the average about one degree for every sixty feet of depth. It was so in the Pittsburg well, the temperature of which was measured by Professor William Hallock of Columbia college. This was originally merely an ordinary oil well put down by the Forest Oil company. Several thousand feet had been drilled before the oil sand began to yield sufficient commercial returns, and then they had gone so far and the tube showed such a decided rise in temperature it was decided to dedicate the well to science. So the drilling was continued and Professor Hallock was asked to make a test. Meanwhile as a member of the United States geological survey, he had been conducting some measurements in the well near Wheeling. He was thus able to compare one with the other.

The method of taking the temperature was simple. Self-registering thermometers were placed in iron buckets three feet long and three inches in diameter. A bucket holding thermometers was hung on the end of a steel wire and let down into the hole 260 feet, when another bucket was tied on and the lowering was continued. Measurements were thus made at various depths. It was tedious work and when the lower depths were reached it required nearly an hour to get the buckets back to the surface once the measurement had been made. On the way down in the Pittsburg well, natural gas was encountered, tapped and used for a time to drive the machinery that worked the drills. In this instance the well furnished power to dig itself out.

Comparative Temperature Obtained.

Meantime Professor Hallock sent to Germany for the measurements which were being taken in the Schladabach and the Sperenberg wells under the direction of Mr. E. Dunker of Halle and in the end he was able to furnish a table of measurements of the four wells:

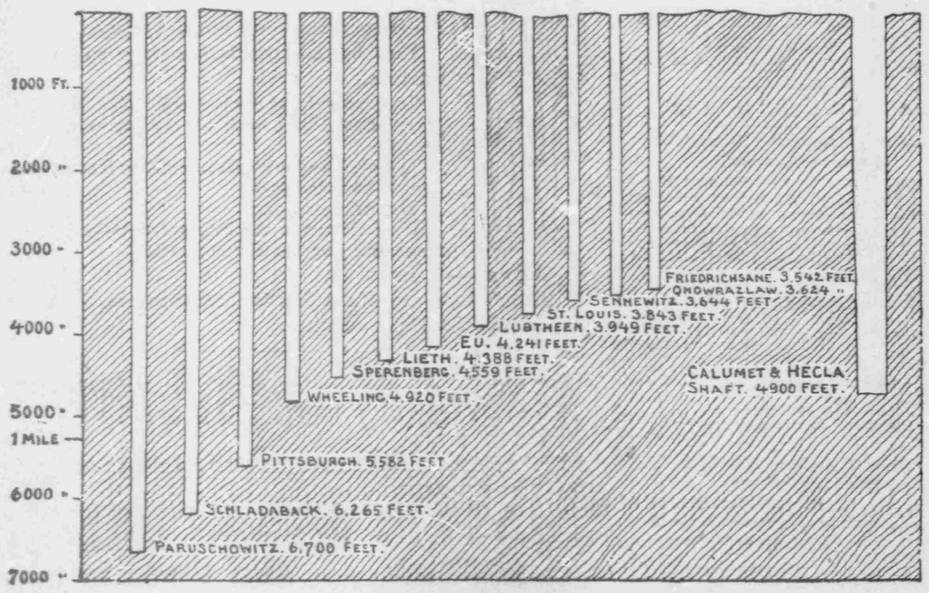


DIAGRAM SHOWING RELATIVE DEPTHS OF SHAFTS.

All of these wells have now been sunk lower; therefore according to the average rate of increase the Sperenberg ought to measure approximately 124 degrees; the Pittsburg 128 degrees, and according to the German average, the Parushowtiz well which has not yet been reported would show a temperature at the bottom somewhere between 155 degrees and 160 degrees Fahrenheit. It would not take very much more digging before the heat of these wells could be utilized. All things being equal the Pittsburg well at 10,000 feet should develope a temperature greater than that of boiling water, especially as the heat increases more rapidly as the hole gets deeper.

But these wells were all bored in what might be called the normal crust of the earth, where the strata lie in situ. Had they been dug in Wyoming, in the Geyser Basin, for instance, it is probable that steam or very hot water would have been encountered not many feet below the surface, for after all, the geyser is one of nature's deepest holes, since it connects in one way or another with the internal heat of the earth and therefore we have a sort of indication of how an artificial deep hole might act if once it were driven down far enough to form a vent for the heat of the earth. On the other hand, had one of the wells been driven down under Michigan, through the copper beds, it is probable that even 10,000 feet would not beget a temperature too hot for breathing purposes, let alone the production of steam. This is the lay mind must appear strange in view of the fact that the region is full of copper bearing rock and therefore ought to conduct heat readily. Nevertheless it is a fact that these rocks do not conduct the heat. The temperature of the lowest Calumet and Hecla shaft never goes far from 70 degrees. Professor Agassiz buried thermometers at various depths in the mines and got very little variation. Professor Pierce of Harvard obtained some slabs of rock from the lower levels and by means of an electric thermostat tested their heat-conducting properties which were reported to be small in comparison with those of some other rocks. His idea in this case, however, leans more to an approximation of heat conductivity of rock in general, in the end to form an estimate of the earth's age, since if the cooling rate of all rock is known then taken in relation to thickness, it would be possible to determine approximately how long it has been since the exterior of the earth was molten. The deep wells furnish data in this connenction also.

Deep In the Land Under Sea.

Among other theories concerning the Calumet rock it is suggested that perhaps the proximity of the waters of Lake Superior has a cooling effect on the copper mines. Low temperatures are characteristic of all the subaqueous deep holes. Beside the chasms in the ocean bed the holes in the land are as pin punctures, for more than half of the whole sea floor lies two miles below the surface of the water. One-eighth of this latter area is depressed below three miles. This eighth itself is seven million square geographical miles in extent and contains areas or rather basins which dip in places over five miles below the surface. These last almost unfathomable holes in the ocean bottom occur only in three places, or at least only three soundings of five miles or more have been made. There may be others, of course, even deeper which have as yet remained undiscovered. The deepest of these holes exist in the South Pacific to the east of the Kermadecs. It is 5,155 fathoms deep or 530 feet more than five geographical miles. The sounding that went to its bottom represents the farthest reach of humankind toward the center of the earth. Yet what came back with the rod was meagre in view o fwhat might have been expected. A little globigerina ooze, a little of that curious red clay which covers nearly half of the sea floor, a few manganese nodules, some minute, magnetic spherules of cosmic origin, that was all; these and the positive assurance of intense darkness and bitter cold. The ooze was what was left of animal carcasses sweeping downward through centuries; the clay was the plastic remnants of even earlier periods; the spherules were representatives of meteoric particles which had pulnged through immeasurable distance from "outer dark to inner dark." Volcanic debris, oxides of iron, zeolitic crystals, manganese nodules and remains of whales and sharks are characteristic of these deep holes. One haul of a trawl in the Pacific brought up from a depth of nearly three miles many bushels of, manganese nodules 1,500 sharks' teeth and fifty fragments of the bones of whales. But beyond these, all other objects which might be expected to drop from the surface are wanting. It is not surprising, however, in view of the terrible pressure of the water at these great depths. Nothing not especially adapted for it could withstand it. It is calculated that at one mile beneath the surface the pressure of the water on all sides of an object is one ton to the square inch. In view of this it was formerly supposed that the pressure at the lowest depths must be great enough to turn the bottom to stone. But the dredge shows this to be untrue.

Habitants of Extreme Depths.

The fish that live in thes deep holes are soft and gelatinous, the only condition in fact which would save them fro mthe effects of the pressure. The water permeates their soft structure and counteracts its own pressure. As suggested above, it is very cold in the deep holes. Professor Agazzis mentions how cold the ooze from the bottom feels—how cold mud nearly froze his hands stiff under the broiling sun. It gave him an idea for cheap refrigeration and he lowered a bottle of wine nearly two and a half miles under water for the purpose of freezing it. It came up cold enough to be sure, but full of muddy salt water which had forced its way through the cork.

Forty-three areas have been found on the sea bottom lying deeper than three miles. Eight of these are deeper than four miles. These are: Nares Deep in the North Atlantic; Ross Deep in the Antactic; Weber Deep in the Banda sea; Challenger, Tuscarora and Sapan Deeps in the North Pacific, and Aidrich and Richards Deeps in the South Pacific. Three of these deeps contain five mile holes. They are Aldrich, Tuscarora and Weber deeps. But the Aldrich deep hole is the deepest, as was stated above. Yet, deep as it is, in spite of the fact that Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, if dropped into the hole would sink out of sight in the ocean, that little pinnacle called Sunday island standing squarely in this five-mile hole is able to rear its head 2,000 feet above the surface of the sea. Incidentally this conveys a vivid idea of the contrast nature is able to make in the matter of high hills and deep holes.

(Copyright, 1900, by Theo Waters.)

SCHOOL FOR TRUANTS.

Chicago Delinquents Will Have to Go There and Stay.

(Chicago American.)

Chicago is at last to have a Parental school. School teachers will no longer be annoyed by the machinations of truant pupils. Habitual "hookey" proclivities will be met with a corresponding and effective remedy.

These would-be deserters of the public schools will be properly taken care of by the enactment of a law recently passed by the legislature providing for the establishment of a Parental school in Chicago or in any city having a population of 100,000 inhabitants or more. Such a school will be established in Chicago within the next three months. The Parental school is what its name indicates as nearly as possible. Its aim is to take the place of the parents of the pupil. The chronic school deserted will there find both a home and school. Children who persist in the habit of truancy will be brought before the committee of compulsory education, each case examined, and the incorrigible ones will be sent to the Parental school, to abide their time in this unique reform. The officers of the school will have the entire collaboration of the parents in the work.

Progress in the development of the institution has awaited the investigation and report of Superintendent Thomas H. MacQueary. This report has now been completed and was adopted by the board of education at their meeting, and it is expected the work will now go rapidly forward.

The school building will be a handsome brick structure, located on a forty-acre tract of land. By March 1 it is expected to have the school in full running order. The institution of the Parental school will score another point in the admirable school system of Chicago. It is planned to make it the finest example of parental schools in the country.

With this purpose in view, Superintendent Thomas H. MacQueary and Robert M. Smith, supervisor of manual training of the new school, acting under the instructions of the committee of compulsory education, visited all the important parental and reform schools of the east, and the result of their investigation is embodied in the report which outlines the plans of the school in detail, its organization, management and purpose.

The school as planned will accommodate 500 pupils. One large building will provide for the school work proper to be done, while "the cottage plan" will be carried out—as is done in the best eastern schools—in the matter of providing the children with the pleasant surroundings of a home. All the buildings will be handsome brick structures, which will be a credit to the enterprise.

The object of the Parental school, which is to reform the truant habit and return the pupils to the regular schools, can best be accomplished by the fostering of a love and appreciation of school work through the exercise of a kind but firm influence.

These conditions can best adjust themselves, the authorities say, by the inauguration of "the cottage plan" rather than by the wholesale plan of reform attempted in a large dormitory.

Strict discipline will be instituted. A general daily routine will be observed. No matter whether the hour be one of school work, house work, recreation or that concerning the daily habits of the pupil, a strict adherence to its own particular time will be observed. Thus the boy or girl of vagrant or truant habits will experience a new influence in their lives and learn to accustom himself to new and regular conditions of daily life.

Mr. MacQueary believes the curriculum should embrace an all-around education involving physical, metal, moral and religious training. The physical training will be accomplished through physical culture. This to include military drill, gymnastic exercises and manual labor, such as working out of doors in the garden and elsewhere.

Mr. MacQueary says: "The children can be fitted to return to the public schools sooner and better by a special course of study than they can by adopting that which has already failed to interest them. None but the best teachers will be employed in the parental school.

"In fact, truancy is often due to teachers' defects. A teacher may be well qualified, academically, for his or her work and may be a fair success in an ordinary school, but he or she may fail utterly in a parental school simply because he or she lacks the proper spirit—that indefinable knack of 'holding' the pupils. If this statement is trite it is so true and so important that I do not hesitate to say that the success of the parental school will depend more largely upon he character of its teachers and officers than upon anything else."

Rockefeller's Income.

(New York World.)

The announcement that the next quarterly dividend of the Standard Oil company will probably be at the rate of 12 per cent, making 50 per cent for the year, again calls attention to the enormous income which John D. Rockefeller receives from his interest in the great trust.

Mr. Rockefeller is said to hold 31 per cent of the capital stock of the parent corporation, from which his income during 1900 will be $15,500,000. In addition to his stock in the Standard Oil company Mr. Rockefeller is also said to own 43 per cent of the stock of the subsidiary companies. The trust owns the remaining 57 per cent of these minor companies, and up to this time, not including the next quarter, it has drawn $88,000,000 from this ownership.

Mr. Rockefeller's share of the dividends so far declared this year by the parent trust is $11,780,000. His 49 per cent share of the profits of the subsidiary companies is $6,840,000, making up $18,620,000 that he has received so far this year from his interests in oil.

But this man's wealth is so great that the oil industry, immense as it is, is not large enough to employ his riches. He owns an interest in the innumerable railroads, banks, insurance and trust companies, mining corporations and industrial enterprises.

He and his brother, William, control the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, and they are large owners in the Chicago & Alton railroad, the Federal Steel company, American Sugar Refining company, American Cotton Oil company, National City bank, Hanover National bank, First National bank of Chicago, second National bank of New York, The National Park bank, Bank of Metropolis, the United States Trust company, the Farmers' Loan & Trust company, the Chicago Terminal Transfer company, the Amalgamated Copper company, the Anaconda Copper mining company, the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, the Consolidated Gas company and its constituent companies, the Brooklyn Union Gas company, the Harlem River and Portchester railroad, the Leather Manufacturers' National bank, the Mutual Life Insurance company, the Cleveland, Akron & Columbus railroad, First Municipal Bond Insurance company, the International Banking & Trust company, and the Kern Incandescent Gas Light company.

John D. Rockefeller's investments in these corporations will bring his total income this year up to at least $60,000,000, and perhaps to $75,000,000. Based upon $60,000,000, his daily income for every one of the 365 days in the year is $164,383, one-fourth of which would be deemed an independent fortune by the average family.

Balm.

(Exchange.)

Mrs. Smith—Mrs. Brown has had such an experience. Arrested for shoplifting. All a mistake of course.

Mr. Jones—I suppose she must have been very much annoyed.

Mrs. Smith—Not at all. The papers all said she was "of prepossessing appearance."

The Rural Humorist.

(Harper's Bazar.)

"Your Aunt Almira tips the beam at less than a hundred pounds, don't she?" inquired Farmer Stackpole.

"Yes. It's——"

Honest Farmer Stackpole blatted joyously in appreciation of the only joke he had perpetrated since the previous autumn.

See Mehesy the Furrier for furs. Knutsford.

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One woman writes: I was so miserable during the menstrual period that life was a burden to me. I was dizzy, nervous, and had such pains in my back. I tried all kinds of applications and remedies, but got no relief. After taking two boxes of Viburno-Lax I began to improve; my nervousness left me. After I had taken four boxes I did not have any of my old troubles at all. I can assure you that I am a very happy woman now.

A Sufferer Fron Female Weakness Cured by Viburno-Lax.

This woman writes: I suffered from female weakness for a number of years, and as I was compelled to be on my feet all day, my case became very bad; I lost my appetite and at times would hardly eat enough to last me through the day. I started to take Viburno-Lax and after taking the first box I began to improve. I have taken five boxes and am entirely strong and well.

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