

THE WILT DISEASE.

Some Interesting Facts About the New Cotton Blight.

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

Investigation of the Blight in South Carolina Fields by the United States Government.

The United States Department of Agriculture has just published, as bulletin No. 27 of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, the report of W. A. Orton, associate pathologist of the division, on the subject of the wilt disease of cotton, a blight that has wrought great havoc in the sea island cotton fields and has attacked some upland cotton districts in South Carolina. Mr. Orton and Dr. E. W. Smith, whose report on this latest blight is referred to in this latest bulletin, visited this section last year and spent considerable time in studying the disease and searching for a remedy. The report is accompanied by several plates showing the effect of the disease on fields of cotton it has attacked.

Mr. Orton says the wilt disease is now known to occur on the coast of South Carolina, where it attacks the fine sea island cotton, and at Dillon, Salter, and other places in the same State, where it attacks upland cotton. Prof. F. S. Ziegl, of the State experiment station, reports it to be widely distributed in Alabama, particularly in the southern part, and states that it is undoubtedly growing worse from year to year. It has been reported from many localities in Georgia, and is known to occur in Florida and Arkansas. It is certain that this disease is widely distributed through the Southern States, and it is probable that it occurs in many places where it has not yet been distinguished from other troubles, such as "rust" and the effects of lightning.

The annual loss from the wilt disease is very considerable. It is more keenly felt by the individual planter than most other troubles, because the disease remains in the soil and grows worse, with each succeeding crop. On the sea islands of South Carolina alone a careful estimate indicates that nearly, if not quite, one-third of the land planted to high-grade cotton is affected by this disease, the larger portion of it so badly that it is no longer profitable to plant it in cotton. The loss to the planters of upland cotton in areas affected and the disease is spreading rapidly from year to year. One of the main reasons for this is that the disease is not yet being distinguished from other troubles, such as "rust" and the effects of lightning.

The importance of the disease, however, does not lie so much in the amount of the present loss as in the danger of its future increase, for it must ultimately spread so much as to entail far greater losses and possibly threaten the life of the industry under the methods for its control are perfected.

The wilt is very distinct from any other disease of cotton, so that there need be no difficulty in its identification. It usually makes its first appearance in the spring about the last of May, when the plants are six to eight inches high. It appears in well defined areas, which enlarge if cotton is planted on the same land again. The first outward indication of its presence is a dwarfed growth and unhealthy appearance of the plants. The leaves turn yellow between the veins, their margins shrivel up, and some plants wilt and die at once. In other plants the progress of the disease is often slow, and many times live the entire summer and die in the fall. On cutting across the stem of a diseased plant, the woody part will be found to be stained brown wherever the disease is present. In the absence of microscopic examinations, this brown discoloration of the internal tissue is the best evidence of the presence of the wilt disease. Plants may partially recover from a severe attack of the wilt disease by the development of strong lateral branches near the ground. Such plants may be distinguished by their dwarfed and bushy appearance and by the tendency of their branches to be prostrate and to lay low to the ground. The cause of the wilt disease of cotton is a fungus, *Neovossia vasinifera* (Atk.) E. W. Smith, which attacks the plants from the soil. It first enters the smaller roots and subsequently grows from these into the taproot and stem, filling the water ducts with its mycelium. The result is that the supply of food and moisture carried up from the roots is greatly decreased and the symptoms described above are produced. The nature of the fungus has been fully discussed in bulletin No. 17 of this division, and it will not be necessary to enter into details here, but only to outline the subject and to record some additional facts known to the progress of the disease. It is always found in connection with that of other plant diseases. The period of incubation, or the time elapsing after the young seedling is exposed to the attacks of the fungus and before the disease becomes manifest, is usually at least forty days and often much longer. Much depends on the individual plant itself. The conditions which favor the progress of the fungus through the plant are not fully understood, but from some observations that have been made it is believed that highly fertile plants, growing vigorously, succumb more readily than those which have grown on sandy soil.

In the early history of the wilt disease the cause was supposed by the planters to be the excessive application of injudicious use of commercial fertilizers, and many of the leading planters in the sea islands made careful experiments with various modifications of their fertilizers, such as the use of manure, salt mud, kainit, and lime, and the increase or decrease of the proportions of phosphoric acid and potash. Mr. W. G. Hinson of the sea island, South Carolina, a very successful planter, has informed the writer that the result of all these trials has been to convince those who made them that the disease can not be controlled by any changes in their system of fertilizing. The wilt disease occurs in so many widely separated localities and under such varied cultural conditions that it is not probable that any errors in the agricultural practice are the primary cause of the trouble, although the planting of cotton year after year on the same land and the common practice of plowing under the last year's stubs in preparing the ground in the spring doubtless hasten the spread of the fungus after it has once been introduced.

The effect of repeated infections of the small roots of the cotton is very noticeable, especially when the plants

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Will Insist on Some Change in the Health Laws.

The State board of health held its annual meeting here Thursday in the office of the secretary of state, all the members being present save Attorney General Bellinger, who is confined to his bed by sickness.

The session was quite a long one and many matters of vital concern to the people of the State were fully and thoroughly discussed preliminary to the approval of the annual report. The report was finally completed in all details and in the afternoon was sent to the State printer. The board will make several recommendations to the legislature and will insist upon certain changes in the health laws that are deemed absolutely necessary to the efficient working of the State board of health.

The smallpox situation was very fully discussed, Dr. Evans the secretary giving very much the same information that he had furnished the governor. Since then, however, the disease has spread and is now in several additional counties. The town of Union, Dr. Evans says, has been the greatest and almost sole source of infection during the year. The State board cannot take charge in an incorporated town without a proclamation from the governor. The board holds that it is to be expected to stamp out contagious and infectious diseases it is absolutely necessary for the legislature to give it absolute jurisdiction over the State. This is earnestly urged upon the body.

The board feels also that a registration law enabling it to obtain birth, marriage and death statistics from the towns and cities, is very essential to its work. The present law is not working satisfactorily. For instance, no birth statistics are obtainable from Columbia as things stand. The board will present a memorial to the general assembly to pass an act requiring such statistics, providing a heavy penalty for physicians failing to file reports with proper officials, making the county superintendent county health officer and the road commissioner township health officers.

The meeting Wednesday also developed the fact that the new act relating to the transportation of dead bodies, which is the same in other States, is not being enforced as it should be. The matter which instances cited has been referred to the attorney general for his consideration and such steps as he may deem necessary.

The report prepared, though incomplete insofar as statistics are concerned, will be full of interesting matter.—Columbia State.

TALK WITH MARS

Nicola Tesla Thinks He Has Found a Twentieth Century Secret.

Not quite two years ago Mr. Nicola Tesla, went out to Colorado to conduct experiments in relation to the wireless transmission of energy which has engaged his attention for several years. Mr. Tesla found it necessary to arrange for one of his inventions and his experiments to the extent he desired to work at an altitude of several thousand feet. He found a suitable place for his purposes in Colorado and went out there in the spring of 1899, built a laboratory about ten miles from Pike Peak and went to work.

What he accomplished in the eight or nine months while he was working there he has kept pretty much to himself ever since, but when the National Red Cross which was arranging for one of the century meetings of its various branches throughout the country asked Mr. Tesla to indicate what in his opinion, would be one of the greatest achievements of the coming century, he gave just a hint of one of the wonders he discovered in Colorado. In a more elaborate way Mr. Tesla dwelt on his work to a reporter. He regards his latest results as far and away the most important he has ever attained. Briefly, Tesla has been able to note a novel manifestation of energy which he knows is not of solar or terrestrial origin, and being neither, he concludes that it must emanate from one of the planets. While he was conducting his experiments in his Colorado laboratory one day the instrument he was using to observe the electrical condition of the earth was affected in an unusual manner. It recorded three distinct, though very faint movements one after the other.

These movements were observed not once, but many times, the number of impulses varying, and Mr. Tesla was firmly believes that, with improved apparatus, it will be quite possible for the people of the earth to communicate with the inhabitants of other planets.

COUGH UP

Said a Bold Highwayman to a Drummer

The mail stage bound for the health resort at Harrison Hot Springs was held up at noon Wednesday, six miles out of Agassiz, by three robbers. This place is about sixty miles from Vancouver, B. C. There were nine passengers. The bandits quickly and efficiently emptied their pockets. The woman was poor. Her clothes were shabby and her purse contained only 65 cents. This dashing leader of the highwaymen returned to her with an added \$5 gold piece taken from the pocket of a commercial traveler.

"Madame," he said, "We do not rob hen roosts. If you will kindly accept this with our compliments we shall be really indebted to you. Allow us to wish you a very happy New Year." The passengers all contributed \$20 to the bandits' pockets, rings, a diamond stud, and gold watch buttons. The commercial traveler at first yielded only about \$18, but the stage robbers were dissatisfied with this sum and accused him of bad faith.

"You're holding out on us, partner," said the leader. "Now, if you do not cough up in just thirty seconds, we will pump you so full of lead that you will never know what struck you." The salesman tremulously told about a belt with money. The leader of the robbers, after apologizing to the woman for his necessary action, removed a commercial travelers coat and vest and triumphantly produced a belt containing \$2,500 in gold coin.

Whitewash for Farm Buildings.

Nothing adds so much to the appearance of farm buildings as bright and unchanging colors. It costs a great deal to keep houses and barns painted, but it is well worth the money, not merely because of the improved durability, but because of the improved appearance. Nothing spells prosperity so much as fair lettered, white walls, as well as painted farm buildings. Paint, however, is dear, and for a long time farmers who desire to keep things in first-class shape have been looking for a cheap paint or a whitewash that will stand the weather and not become instead of a clear white a dirty drab in a few weeks or months.

The United States government has been looking after this, as it does after almost everything, and has hit upon a whitewash for its lighthouses against overwhelming odds as the Boers are making. It was supposed that the flight of Kruger and his army, the capture of Johannesburg and Pretoria would speedily end the war. But many months have passed since these events, and the Boers are not only still in arms, but have achieved, in rapid succession, a series of most remarkable victories over a foe immensely their superior in numbers and all sorts of military equipment and supplies. According to an official report, there were in South Africa on December 1 a British force available for duty which numbered no less than 210,203 men, of whom 142,893 are regulars. The highest estimate of the Boer force is 15,000. This great disparity of numbers represents by no means the disadvantages under which the Boers are fighting. They have no base of operations and only a few scattered military depots. Their resources are inferior to those of the British. And yet the Boers, thus ill provided and scattered in small groups, have recently struck some severe blows and continue their wonderful and audacious activity without the slightest indication of relaxing their resistance, hopeless as it seems. Since the beginning of the war the Boers have inflicted terrible damage upon the British. The British killed 12,000, wounded 3,018, wounded 13,886, dead from disease or wounds 7,768, sick in hospitals 1,900, and taken to England 35,548. The war has not made or added to the fame of a single British commander, but it has produced two Boer generals who will take historic rank among the great soldiers of this generation—Crompe and Dewet. So the Atlanta Journal says there is no telling how long the little Boer army will be able to keep up its fight, for it does not yet show the slightest disposition to yield, and the British even with their immense army, seem to be able to do very little with it.

Damage Restitution.

The wife of a New York defaulter, whose name is much in the public prints, has sided in restitution to the putative bank by surrendering \$150,000 worth of diamonds and jewelry. Much is being made of her devotion in consenting to this step, and perhaps justly, because she might have imitated many prominent examples by fleeing to all that there was in sight. She is relinquishing fully the savings made by the bank, but a side to the transaction too likely to be overlooked, and from which we should extract the real lesson of the case. When the wife of a \$3,000 a year bank teller becomes the recipient of \$150,000 in presents, is it not about time for her to inquire into the source of all this wealth? Much may be granted to the want of acquaintance with business methods by which a woman may be embarrassed, but the dulcet wife in the world knows that she can buy a thousand dollars that she can in no process of time know to women as well as men that living above one's means must be at the expense of some one else. When a \$2 a day man invests \$10 a day in a carriage ride or when a \$3,000 a year man is able to "hold his own" with his \$100,000 neighbor, it requires no special skill to come to a conclusion. Much of human misery springs from a man's paupering of his own appetites; it is largely accelerated when he has a wife whose society is first place binds her to the cost. It is not necessary to trust his word, to be either in the swim or on the drying list of those who, for the season, lead society. The pleasure of home and the enjoyment of the fulfillment of natural duties will bring less protechnicism, but a longer lease of real happiness.

Right Mr. Bryan.

Acting upon the advice of Mr. Bryan, the W. Bryan Association of Cleveland, Ohio, has changed its name to the Cuyahoga Association of Democratic Clubs. Writing with respect to clubs which bear his name, Mr. Bryan says: "I think it is better that they should drop my name in order that no mistakes can be made in which we are all enlisted." Incidentally he again remarks that "circumstances will determine who should lead the next fight."

Two Suicides in One Firm.

The disappearance of E. Churchill Hoffman several months ago from Atlanta was a local sensation and the news of his suicide in New York caused little surprise. He had been connected with the Southern Agricultural works as general manager and was president of the Georgia Handle Company. When the agricultural works failed he was called on to account for certain funds and material which he failed to do. The company failed and Hoffman disappeared. Prior to the failure of the two concerns Hoffman had lived handsomely. He left the city when he saw demands made on him for cash and property of the two companies would be pressed. He left his wife and child here in apartments. Mrs. Hoffman was much disturbed over the troubles and the disappearance of her husband and so after a few days she quietly committed suicide. This is the second failure of the Southern Agricultural Works, as Mr. S. Landner, its former president, committed suicide.

Signals at Sea.

The code of signals used by vessels at sea is prepared by a committee appointed at the international marine conferences that are held every few years. We had one at Washington in 1890, another one held at Copenhagen two years ago, at which revisions were adopted, which extended and simplified the code considerably. Each ship is required to have a set of flags and a supply of rockets which represent 200 or 300 combinations. These can be interpreted by the codebook. Very possible in the future some communication which any ship might want to send to another ship that pass in the night make signals by fire; in the day by flags.—N. Y. Times.

Motor Posts in Australia.

A frequent difficulty encountered by postal authorities in Australia is the cheap and expeditious delivery of mails to outlying localities. Many of these places are hundreds of miles from the nearest railway line, and the route is apt to be through drought-stricken country, where the dry roads are at times impassable even by camels. This is conspicuously the case in tropical Queensland. But the government of that colony has risen to the emergency and has decided to try the experiment of dispatching mails "by back" by motor car. The result is likely to be awaited with interest in other places than Queensland.—London Daily Mail.

Our Bad Manners.

If we could get a consensus of honest opinions from foreigners we should no doubt be told that our dominant national trait is—bad manners. We probably never shall live down the effect produced by the swaggering, right "crisppers" and shuffling gait of those who represent us in Europe. They still are believed to be the true American types. "The American vulgarizes all that he touches" has everywhere passed into an adage.—An American Mother, in Ladies' Home Journal.

SPLENDID BEGINNING.

Automobile Company and Knitting Mill Among Concerns

The new century starts off with a large number of new enterprises desiring incorporation in this State, and charters were being rapidly made out by the office of the secretary of state Tuesday despite the fact the day was supposed to be a holiday.

First came the commission to the South Carolina Automobile company of Columbia, capitalized at \$10,000, proposing to operate a number of electric carriages and vehicles for hire out. The incorporators are Wm. H. Rose, J. Sumter Moore, E. B. Clark, W. H. Lyles and W. B. Smith Walsley.

Another important new concern commissioned was the Peo Doe Knitting mills of Dillon, Marion county, with J. P. Blair, C. S. Herrick and A. B. Jordan as incorporators. The capital stock is to be \$10,000. The Peo Doe Naval Stores company of Dillon with \$50,000 capital was chartered. The officers are R. P. Hamer, Jr., president, and A. F. Woods, secretary and treasurer.

The Woodstock Hardware and Spool Manufacturing company of Woodstock, Berkeley county, was chartered with W. H. Welch as president and Julius D. Koster as secretary and treasurer. The capital is \$15,000. The Cowpens Cotton Oil company of Cowpens was chartered. The capital is \$4,000. C. B. Martin is president and W. B. Potter secretary and treasurer. A commission was issued to the Merchants and Planters' Bank of Gaffney, with A. N. Wood, Chas. M. Smith, C. E. Watkins, R. A. Jones and W. C. Carpenter as incorporators. The capital stock is to be \$10,000. The Woodstock Hardware and Spool Manufacturing company of Woodstock, Berkeley county, was chartered with W. H. Welch as president and Julius D. Koster as secretary and treasurer. The capital is \$15,000. The Cowpens Cotton Oil company of Cowpens was chartered. The capital is \$4,000. C. B. Martin is president and W. B. Potter secretary and treasurer. A commission was issued to the Merchants and Planters' Bank of Gaffney, with A. N. Wood, Chas. M. Smith, C. E. Watkins, R. A. Jones and W. C. Carpenter as incorporators. The capital stock is to be \$10,000.

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TO CHECK TEXAS FEVER

Circular Being Sent Out by Dr. Nesom of Clemson College.

The following circular of inquiry regarding Texas fever in cattle has just been issued from the office of the veterinarian at the South Carolina experiment station at Clemson college.

Dear Sir: This letter is sent you in the hope that you will assist the veterinarian of the experiment station in securing some information regarding the cattle disease known as Texas fever.

During the past few years, this disease has been prevalent in many sections of this State, but since the passage of the present stock law it has become very common, especially in the upcountry and in the pastures and feeding pens of stock buyers.

Texas fever is known by a number of names in different parts of the country, but the more important of these are splenic fever, acclimation fever, tick fever, red water, bloody murrain, bloody urine, distemper, mountain distemper, etc.

The symptoms are readily recognized by anyone who has seen cattle suffering from this disease. At first, the animal becomes stupid and leaves the herd for some secluded and shady part of the pasture. If they come up at all at night, they usually lag behind the herd, appear listless and droop as though all energy had broken them. The murrain is dropped down, the nose more or less dry, and rumination (chewing the cud) suspended. The urine is red colored, the degree of redness varying with the intensity of the disease. In milk cows the flow of milk almost ceases. Constipation is usually marked, only small quantities of very dark colored dung being voided. The temperature runs from 103 to 107 F. Some idea of the fevered condition may be gotten by inserting a finger in the corner of the animal's mouth. All of the symptoms which attend this disease are usually present almost or quite unconscious walks round in a circle, groans and seems to suffer great pain. Then convulsions set in, the animal falls, struggles violently, and in the intervals between convulsions, lies on the side scoring and death follows. Calves do not develop the severe symptoms and few of them die from the disease, but the death rate is probably 50 per cent. to 90 per cent. The disease may appear at any time during the summer but more often from July to October.

Post mortem examination of the carcass shows the flesh almost bloodless and pale in color, the spleen (enlarged) black and easily torn, the bladder filled with bloody urine and the gall bladder yellowish, and the gall bladder filled with bile.

In all cases, an examination of the skin about the thighs, flanks, neck and other portions of the body reveals the presence of ticks, which always go with Texas fever. The cause of the disease is a very small animal organism (protozoan) which seems at all times to exist in the body of the common cattle tick (boophilus annulatus). When the tick inserts its bill through the hide of the cow, these little "germs" gain access to the blood of the animal and there develop, producing a case of Texas fever in ten or twenty days, in most cases. Death results from the destruction of the red blood cells, the bodies of which go to the spleen and the coloring matter to the bladder.

Cattle that have had ticks on them when calves are immune to the disease and will not have it again. Cattle that have not had ticks on them until a year old will develop the fever as soon as they get the ticks.

The experiment station officials desire to assist the stockmen of the State in getting this disease under control and preventing severe losses from it in the future. To this end we are sending you this circular, and request that you will read it and answer the questions on the enclosed addressed postal card. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and trust you will soon return the card to

Dr. G. E. Nesom,
Clemson College, S. C.
December 31, 1900.

Quit Kissing Talk.

"Fisher, what is occasion?"

"Fisher, what is occasion?" "Occasion, Nettie dear, is a learned expression queer for a nice sensation. I put my arms thus to hold your waist— This is appropriation!" "You need not fear, there's no one near. I then,—oh, dear! Nettie, that's occasion!"

The New York World says promiscuous osculation is under the ban. The kissing habit must cease. The Demorest branch of the W. C. T. U. has declared against it and hereafter the stolen sweets, extolled in song and story, will have the added spice of a self constituted detective agency of ardent eyed white ribboners successfully baffled. The organization admits of no compromise. It does not urge temperance. It preaches prohibition according to its principles. The kiss is an intoxicant, therefore the kiss, like the alcohol, must go.

"I think kissing is the very worst thing a young woman can do," said the doctor, "and the amount of lunging girls and kissing that some girls do, is utterly a menace to our morality. I know a young man very well who declares that he rarely leaves a girl without kissing her goodnight. He says that they not only eagerly accede to his request, but that several have insisted upon being kissed."

"I should have shown him the door," said Dr. Eilen Miles. "Well, he explained that of course he had no respect for the girls he kissed," went on Dr. Haffield. "But I think women are very careless about their kisses. Mothers should teach their daughters the evils of it. A girl does not know the danger of kissing. She should understand how to guard against it. I have carefully inquired into the matter and I find many young women imagine this is the way to get husbands. It is reprehensible. These are the supposed well brought-up daughters of rich parents. The girls must be taught that it is wrong, not only to kiss a stranger, but to kiss the men they are engaged to. To great care cannot be taken."

"I should suggest that an excellent and efficient way to stop the impropriety," said Miss Thomas, "would be to instruct the young men in the evils of kissing."

"But they like it," said one woman impudently. "Another cited the case of a modest youth, who, fearing to yield to the solicitations of an osculatory temptress, had applied to a policeman. But the law was felt to be a tacit encouragement of all kinds of stimulants, from liquor to kissing, and all idea of an anti kissing bill was promptly abandoned. The kiss, relatively speaking, was not disesteemed. No fine lines of demarcation have been drawn about the osculatory salute, nor has it been announced whether a male connection by marriage may with propriety embrace newly acquired feminine family acquaintances. But the Demorest Union has pledged itself to eternal vigilance in the matter of the promiscuous kiss, and the unannounced application of a mousetrap to the lips that are nearest will henceforward run the gauntlet of fearless and experienced crusaders."

Why the Oyster Crop Falls.

It is pointed out that partial failure of the oyster crop in certain years, the diminution in size of oysters on the market and the extinction of many oyster beds that formerly were famous—the Saddle Rocks, for instance—have been due to want of material for the production of the oyster shell. The water in the oyster beds has steadily deteriorated in late years, and in many cases become absolutely worthless, in spite of the fact that food has been supplied artificially at great expense and trouble, and wire fences have been used to protect the oysters from the starfish. For this trouble the defilement of the water by sewage and waste of various manufacturing establishments have usually been blamed, sometimes justly, sometimes without cause. What the oyster plant must have, and it will perish, is a full supply of carbonate of lime with which to build its shell. Near the mouths of rivers, where carbonate of lime in mechanical solution, as it is expressed, comes down from the hills and plains of the interior in drainage, the oyster has all the material it needs for building its house, and at the same time the inflowing tide brings it ample food.—Boston Transcript.

Germany Crowds England on the Sea.

The naval weakness of Britain is notoriously the subject of earnest protest by some of our most efficient admirals and officers. A London correspondent. German efficiency has been ready secured a formidable and homogeneous fleet. Already Germany holds the Atlantic record for speed. Her system of mail subsidies has secured a large portion of Asiatic and Australian trade. Her rate of increase in shipbuilding, for the first time in history, has exceeded that of Great Britain. Germany has already stretched out her hands for the prize of the world's trade. Russia is impatient to assist us to recover the supremacy which we have listlessly allowed to slip from our hands.—Detroit Free Press.

British Like Our Census Methods.

Inquiries have been received from the British government concerning the methods of taking the American census, because it has never been able to secure such comprehensive data, or even as complete a count of population, in its own country. The latest census of the American States has secured in 12 million. With 24 potential facts concerning each individual accessible, the sociological and psychological problems of the present time, growing out of the assimilation of large masses of foreigners with the American people, become a fascinating study.—National Magazine.

New France Got Into Indo-China.

The connection of France with Indo-China dates back to 1748, when a warehouse and a trading station were established in Anam. The old customs of China still prevailed, the whole country having been under China for many centuries, until a native vic king led a successful revolt about the year 1830. Being one of the intermediate conflicts which have arisen with due regularity among claimants to assist us in the aid of Louis XVI. of France was solicited, and a treaty of alliance was entered into in 1787. This originated the first claim of France upon Indo-China.—Consul John C. Covert.

Smallest of the Small.

While we are accustomed to think of atoms as the smallest possible particles into which matter can be divided, recent experiments, particularly those of Dr. Gustave Le Bon, have indicated that, through electrical dissociation, atoms themselves are capable of subdivision into particles of amazing minuteness. Many years ago Lord Kelvin calculated the probable size of a molecule of air, and according to him about 25,000,000 such molecules laid in a row would measure an inch. There would be 600 air molecules in a wave-length of ordinary light. Every smaller atom is composed of atoms smaller than itself. Now, Dr. Le Bon calculates that the particles dissociated by the electric energy which produces such phenomena as the Becquerel rays are so small that even atoms would appear to be "infinitely large" in comparison with them.—Youth's Companion.

Strange Snow on Mars.

Prof. Stonehouse Snowy in developing his theory of the escape of gases from planetary atmospheres depending upon the force of gravity of the particular planets concerned, has concluded that helium at present is slowly escaping from the earth, and in a distant past time it probably escaped much more rapidly. From Mars, he says, water vapor must have escaped with about the same readiness as helium fled from the earth, and accordingly the variable white patches about the poles of the escape of gases from planetary atmospheres depending upon the force of gravity of the particular planets concerned, has concluded that helium at present is slowly escaping from the earth, and in a distant past time it probably escaped much more rapidly. 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