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Only an Incubator

Dear Editor: I have read much of late about Professor Loeb's discovery of how to create life. Is it true that he has found the secret of life?

This inquiry has come to the editor in several different forms recently, and in answer he desires to say emphatically—

No! Professor Loeb has not discovered how to create life. Far from it. His experiments with the eggs of sea urchins amount practically to this:

He has developed these eggs by artificial means, producing perfect larvae, i. e., the early form of animal life. In plain words, he has simply found out a way by which he can hatch the eggs and produce artificially as good results as nature does.

That is to say— He has done for these little eggs what the modern incubator does for the eggs of the men.

That's all. He creates no life. He cannot make an egg with life in it. He cannot take an egg in which the life is dead and hatch it any more than an incubator can hatch a rotten hen's egg.

Which, of course, is a vastly different thing from the exploited tales respecting his ability to create life by artificial means.

The origin of life is a mystery which is not likely to be solved by human ken. It eludes the scalpel and retort of science. Its penetralia has no door that swings open to man. After centuries of investigation we cannot even adequately define it.

There can be no such thing as "artificial life." The expression of a contradiction of terms and its accomplishment is impossible—so far as we know.

Indeed, Professor Loeb has not even solved that old problem: "Which was the first—the chicken or the egg?"

Big Thieves

It is announced from Washington that the trial of the Oregon senator and congressmen indicted in the federal courts for complicity in the wholesale stealing of the public lands is to begin shortly in Portland and that the prosecution will be vigorous.

Good news! No one presumes to say that Senator Mitchell and the two Oregon congressmen are guilty of the charge.

But— It is well known that the government has been defrauded by an evident conspiracy to steal large areas of the public domain in Oregon and other places in the west. And that Mitchell and the congressmen, together with other "prominent citizens," are badly mixed up in the matter is also well known.

Let a vigorous prosecution reveal and punish the culprits.

About the meanest thief on earth is the thief who, trusted by the people to protect their rights, will steal the people's lands.

The public domain is the inheritance of every American—especially of the landless American. Hitherto Uncle Sam has been "rich enough to give us all a farm." He is no longer in a position to do that. But he has been saving the great wooded lands of the far west for the hardy settlers who will go into them and carve out farms, start villages and rear communities. When these last sacred holdings of the republic are grabbed by thieves in high places the whole country is robbed.

More power to your elbow, Mr. President, as you go after the big thieves.

We can afford in this country to let some of the little thieves get away—but not the big ones.

An American Language

Way back in 1828 Noah Webster predicted that the day would come when there would be—and ought to be—an "American," as distinguished from an "English" language.

Learned men in this country as in England, scoffed at the idea. And from that day to this most of our critics have held that English usage must be considered the standard in this country.

Nevertheless— The American people have paid scant attention to the critics. They have coined new words. They have adopted characteristic expressions unknown to the English. Slowly and grudgingly the dictionary makers have incorporated these words and expressions. So that it may be said that we have in this country a speech that is distinctly differentiated from our "mother tongue."

A French critic who has made a close study of the speech of the English and the Americans declares in a recent article that we have acquired "a language distinctly American." He also says this language is in some respects better than the English because of its conciseness, picturesqueness, and "the power of imagination and delicacy of sentiment it reveals."

This writer says: "No idi moof the old world would have dared to coin that tragic word 'telescope' to depict the collision of two trains. We might have found something as wildly grew-

some, but nothing so coldly scientific. None of our rivers would have inspired that comparison—so bewildering in its simplicity and exactitude—"harness Niagara." You see immediately as in splendid miniature, the enormous monster subdued by the intelligence of man."

Well, We have improved on about everything English, why not the language?

We are a progressive people and must have an up to date expression. We cannot trail after the English modes.

That good gray poet—and mighty good American—Joaquin Miller, long ago pleaded for a speech that would fit this electric age. He said it was time to give up the speech of the stage coach age and adapt it to the life of the present.

He is blind who cannot see that this change is coming. Noah Webster was a true prophet.



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Jack Dempsey, Jack McAuliffe, Geo. Dixon, "Kid" Lavigne, Tommy Ryan and Jas. J. Jeffries are probably the six greatest fighters of recent years.

Jeffries is in a class by himself. One often hears it said that Sullivan, in his day was the better man, but of course no sane man thinks so.

Before Jeff became accomplished in the fine parts of the art, Sullivan, might have won in a finish affair. Jeffries hits harder now than Sullivan ever did, is cleverer, more rugged and 50 pounds heavier.

I believe the best fight I ever fought was my first against Jeffries, when I had everything my own way until that 23rd round. Then after Jeff had taken a severe beating, I connected with one of those jabs of his which have landed him so many victories, and away I went into the land where dreams are manufactured.

Compared to Jeff was Jack Dempsey, one of the world's greatest middleweights. Dempsey gained wonderful popularity and many friends by his straightforward manner. He sidestepped nothing and often met men 50 pounds heavier than himself.

Upon one occasion, in Portland, Ore., Jack made a wager that a lumber-jack wouldn't last three rounds with him. The fellow awws as big as an ox, and with a reputation as a bully. Dempsey had called him down in a saloon, where he declared he would clean out the place.

The bully bellowed for awhile, threatening to eat up Jack and the latter's friends tried to dissuade him when he insisted upon thrashing the big fellow. But the great middleweight would not listen, and the fight, which took place in the back yard of the saloon, demonstrated that he knew his business, for he cut the bully into shreds and collected his bet.

After that Dempsey could have anything he wanted in Portland.

But his career was short lived. Not long afterward he met Fitzsimmons and his Waterloo. The defeat broke the Nonpariel's heart. He could not stand reverses. As a fighter Dempsey will live long in ring history. As a loser he will probably never have an equal.

In the lightweight division, history abounds with bright lights, but none shone brighter than Jack McAuliffe and "Kid" Lavigne. The former combined almost ideal cleverness and hitting, and the latter, for his inches, had the hardest punch of any man I have ever known, while his gameness and endurance has never been met with in the 133-pound class.

And the greatest of featherweights was Geo. Dixon. McGovern beat him, but not when "Little Chocolate" was at his best. I believe I would place Dixon at the head of the world's colored fighters; certainly he was the greatest featherweight.

Last, but far from the least of this group of great fighters is Tommy Ryan. He may have gone back now, but when one considers brains, fighting ability, hitting and everything else that enters into the game, Ryan is the peer of all the middleweights. It was he who taught Jeffries the crouch that made a fighting machine out of an ordinary fighter and placed him at the top of the heavyweight brigade.

A Flash in the Pan.

Owen Moran is another British invader who came here touted as a world-beater. He made good in a couple of battles and then stacked up against Danny Dougherty at Philadelphia. Now, Danny has long since joined the band of industrious mortals known as "has beens," but he was able to best Moran and take away the long end of the purse.

What would have been the result had Moran gone against Frankie Neil or one of the other real ones?

Bribery in the Old Days.

Bribes were often offered fighters in the old days, but in few instances were they accepted. I do not remember when a fixer was able to do business, in the early days of my career.

Once I pass my word I try to keep it, and the following incident has never been told, because I promised not to reveal it, but circumstances have arisen which permit me to do so.

Just before my fight with Joe Choynski at Benica Bay, Cal., a friend of mine came to me and said: "Jim, I want to speak to you alone for a few minutes."

I thought something serious had occurred, but was soon undeceived. The friend showed me a roll of gold certificates as big as my leg, and said:

"There is a lot more here than you will get from the fight, and it is yours if you will lay down."

Of course I didn't consider the proposition. Had I done so I would have double-crossed my friends who were

betting upon me and would have lost the chance to fight Sullivan for the championship. I never knew just how much there was in the bundle, but it was the largest sum ever offered a fighter to lay down.

WICKES IS GREATLY STUCK ON WICKES

The Swell Jekyll and Hyde Letter Writer Who Has Astounded New York is a Big Man and Didn't Mind Saying So Under Another Name—It Also Garnered Lucre for Him—Had to Put Up Cash Bail When Indicted—Some of His Letters.



Wickes' Portrait, by Courtesy "New York State's Prominent and Progressive Men." THOMAS P. WICKES. DR. EDWARD WESTON. Signatures are those of Wickes and "Lewis Jarvis," the name which Wickes used.

By A. T. Moore. Staff Correspondence to The Press. NEW YORK, June 20.—Thomas Parmelee Wickes, Yale '74, Columbia '76, for 13 years an assistant corporation counsel for the city of New York, since 1889 prominent member of the bar of the metropolis, member of the Lawyers' club, the University club, the Yale club, the Psi Epsilon club, the New York Athletic club and the Mendocino Club, son of an old-time and respected New York family, himself respected, able, well-to-do.

Lewis Jarvis, look box 1694, New York, whose title to distinction rested upon the possession of "Jarvis" letters and the authorship of letters of alleged blackmailing character sent to persons interested in the outcome of suits in which Thomas P. Wickes was one of the attorneys.

The exposure resulting from Wickes' arrest on charge of blackmail has caused a sensation in New York, especially among members of the Bar association.

Wickes does not deny that some six years ago he signed an application for a postoffice box in the name of "Jarvis," that Jarvis is none other than himself, and that he has been writing letters all these years in the name of "Jarvis." He merely says that he has done nothing criminal.

Meanwhile he is out on \$1000 cash bail which he furnished, not one of his many club or professional friends coming forward to comfort him in his hour of distress.

While the present action against Wickes grows out of a letter in which "Jarvis" threatened to charge Dr. Edward Weston, wealthy manufacturer of Waverly, N. J., with poisoning the "Jarvis" letters that have thus far come to light have been of an innocent character written for the sole purpose of boosting Thomas P. Wickes as one of the ablest men of the New York bar.

The apparent uselessness of a great many of these letters has led to the belief of many that Wickes is subject to a mania.

In the Weston letters "Jarvis" urged that gentlemen settle a suit for damages which had been brought against him by Dr. A. P. Grinnell, a highly respectable resident of Vermont. As a result of mistaken identity Weston had caused the arrest of Dr. Grinnell. The latter secured a judgment for \$12,500 and another for \$10,000 against Weston. Then there was a hearing, and a few weeks ago, a fourth hearing of the case. Wickes was one of Grinnell's lawyers. While the case was pending on court Weston was deluged with letters from "Jarvis" advising him to pay and not prolong the litigation. Here is a sample of the "Jarvis" literature:

"May I write that many of your friends think you have pursued this lawsuit with Dr. Grinnell long enough? You must know you can never win the case. You admit that for damages which had been brought against him by Dr. A. P. Grinnell, a highly respectable resident of Vermont. As a result of mistaken identity Weston had caused the arrest of Dr. Grinnell. The latter secured a judgment for \$12,500 and another for \$10,000 against Weston. Then there was a hearing, and a few weeks ago, a fourth hearing of the case. Wickes was one of Grinnell's lawyers. While the case was pending on court Weston was deluged with letters from "Jarvis" advising him to pay and not prolong the litigation. Here is a sample of the "Jarvis" literature:

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