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## SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY

Reported weekly for the Ledger.

**The New Vulcanology.—A Game Clock.—Ant Agriculture.—What is a Cold?—Rubber Fruit.—A Decorative Metal.—Singular Transference of Energy.—The Twentieth Century Engine.—A Bivalve Pompeii.**

The mystery of volcanoes is being gradually cleared up by the investigations of radioactivity, if the conclusions of Major C. E. Dutton, U. S. A., are correct. It can no longer be supposed that an eruption is an overflow from the earth's molten interior thirty or forty miles or more below the surface, but the evidence is strong that the source of the material is never more than two or three miles deep, and the quantity is small compared with the mass of the earth—perhaps not more than three cubic miles of lava having been discharged in the greatest recorded outpour. The eruptions, moreover, tend to recur in the same spot—perhaps thousands of times before the activity wanes. This could be explained by assuming that radium is being generated at a depth of two or three miles in each active crater, as the heat from the breaking up of the emanation would accumulate until sufficient to melt a portion of the rocks, and on the discharge of the molten mass through the action of steam or otherwise, the process would be repeated until the exhaustion of the radium.

A chess player's time-keeper is the novelty of Herr Veenhoff of Groningen. It consists of two similar small clocks, behind which is a double lever so arranged that B can touch a button to start the clock of A as the latter begins to move, and A can touch another button to stop his own clock and start the other as B's play commences. At the end of the game the clocks show the total time taken for the moves of each player.

The much maligned white ant of South Africa is credited by a resident of Swaziland with doing more good than harm if care is taken of build ings. It has a wonderful fertilizing effect on the soil, and maize and other crops grow twice as large near ant-hills as elsewhere.

The common cold is now classed by some authorities among the diseases due to bacteria. It has not been settled that any particular organism is the cause, but it seems that more than one species may play an active part and a recent British investigator reports that in one severe, local epidemic he found Micrococcus catarrhalis present in all cases, while in two other epidemics, both of a severely infectious character, the bacillus of Friedlander was recognized in every case examined at its onset. The organism, however, often disappears within 24 or 48 hours. In the second and third epidemics reinfection sometimes occurred, producing either a lasting cold or else a chronic cold lasting for months, and the bacillus was so virulent that it killed inoculated mice, guinea pigs and even rabbits.

A problem for the horticulturists is the production of a profitable rubber bearing fruit, which would make possible an unlimited supply of valuable material without injury to the plants. The fruits of the ordinary plants contain little rubber, but Prof. Warburg, a German, points out that certain parasitic plants—the caoutchouc mistletoes discovered three years ago in Venezuela—hold out the hope that the ideal fruit may be realized. The caoutchouc in some of these species amounts to one-fifth of the weight of the dried fruit. The fruit is not large, but varies in size in the three groups of species of these mistletoes. The caoutchouc, instead of being a milky juice, is in the form of a solid envelope surrounding the seeds.

A novel alloy shown by J. E. Stead at a recent soiree of the London Royal Society offers striking possibilities for ornamental effects. It contains 75 per cent of tin, 20 of antimony and 5 of arsenic, and on slow cooling from fusion it forms semi-spherical, shell like crystals in the metal matrix. Dilute acids dissolve away parts of the matrix, leaving in relief the crystals, which resist on account of richness in antimony and arsenic. The spherical patterns take a high polish and may be given greater prominence by running wax into the cavities.

The paradoxical scientific plaything of Prof. L. K. Wilberforce has been entertaining British physicists. A helical spring is fixed to an unyielding support, and at its lower end it carries a weight, with four screws whose nuts can be so adjusted that the spring vibrates up and down and twists on its vertical axis in approximately the same period. When the adjustment is made the energy of one motion is transferred to the other in a very singular manner. If the spring be pulled down and released, it rapidly ascends and descends, at the same time beginning to oscillate like a balance wheel; the side turning increases as the up-and-down motion lessens, and then the latter ceases altogether. This is not momentary, when a reverse action takes place. That is, the rotation gradually slows down, and the vertical motion increases, the two motions alternating in this curious way for half an hour, and for more than two hours in one apparatus that has been tried.

## SAYS IT IS A CRIME TO DIE.

A few days ago Miss Martha Craig, a slender little woman, young and pleasing of face, sent out an invitation to scientific men all over New York to attend a lecture on the subject. "It is a crime to die."

The lecture was delivered at Lockwood academy, No. 126 south Oxford street, Brooklyn. On the evening of the lecture the hall was filled with psychologists, philosophers and students of theology. The young woman unfolded to them a remarkable theory. She declared that all life is vibration. Through this vibration, she said, it is possible to separate the soul from the body, or to live continuously. Therefore, she argued, it is a crime to die of disease or old age.

Her statements caused the utmost amazement among the students of the occult, as well as scientific men, goes without saying. Prof. A. J. McK. Cattell, the head of the chair of psychology at Columbia university, expressed the opinion that her beliefs were, to say the least, remarkable.

Back of the assertions of this young woman that it is a crime to die, and that the soul can be parted from the body at will, there are facts even more astounding than those set forth in her lecture.

In the first place, she says she can remember two former incarnations of her soul. She said that she could recall having been a Greek girl and then an Indian maiden, living in the wilds of Labrador, before she assumed her present form. In both cases, she said, she died a violent death.

As an Indian she told that she had been burned at the stake by order of her father because she had refused to obey a command given by him.

This such as to Miss Craig's memory concerning her previous lives. Now for what she says she is at present able to do. She says that it is within her power to separate her soul from her body, and at these times she succeeded in visiting another world. Just what this world was she said she did not know. She was of the opinion however that it was the planet Mars.

But for the fact that leading scientific men of the century have taken up Miss Craig, the statements she has made might seem absurd. But she is in no sense a woman of the type that might be expected of one who makes such assertions. She has had a thorough education.

## Sought Truth in Labrador.

Born in county Antrim, Ireland, she was sent to England by her parents when she was fourteen years old. There she took a course in a seminary and then went to France, studying at Nimes, and later at the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

During all this time she was endeavoring to accomplish one end. She was trying to fathom what Spencer and Darwin and Schopenhauer spent their lives in contemplating. She wanted to know why human beings were put on this earth, whether they were bound, what the ultimate aim in life was.

To continue these studies she came to America. She traveled all over the country, studying anthropology and natural phenomena. Finally she went to Labrador for the sole purpose of observing the arctura borealis. There she says she received the first confirmation of her theory that the law of gravity is a myth. But it would take an endless jumble of confusing words to explain these philosophical theories set forth by Miss Craig. Let it suffice to hear her remarkable story of the freedom of the soul, of reincarnations, and of why it is a crime to die.

## The African Drum.

The African drum appears in varied and often picturesque forms. The natives make drums out of shells, tree trunks or earthenware, covered with the skin of some wild animal or sometimes with india rubber. Of the original calabash drums there is probably only one specimen in Europe. Some of the drums are highly ornamented either by painting or carving. One specimen, indeed, has puzzled travelers, for there is depicted on it unmistakably a cross and also a head of European type. A drum found in upper Eualaha has a unique peculiarity in the way of a "sympathetic cord," formed by means of a small tube ingeniously inserted in the side of the instrument, which causes, when the drum is beaten, a vibration resembling that of the reed pipe.—Southern Workman.

## A Plea For Soup.

A learned doctor, pleading for soup on every dinner table, says: "A person comes to dinner weary and hungry and needs first something to stimulate the secretions of the stomach. The first course, hot soup, does this by its action upon the nerves which control the blood vessels. Taking the soup slowly is an aid to digestion, and if not a favorite dish fish or oysters can be substituted, serving the same purpose. The joint or roast can then be taken with benefit to the system, and the game, vegetables and sweets should follow in their order, not necessarily in courses for the plain family dinner, however."

## Girl's Weird Story of Reincarnation

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But for the fact that leading scientific men of the century have taken up Miss Craig, the statements she has made might seem absurd. But she is in no sense a woman of the type that might be expected of one who makes such assertions. She has had a thorough education.

## Saw Countless Worlds.

"I seemed to be half enveloped in a faint, filmy cloud that carried me along at an incalculable speed. Above, below me and on every side flashed the lights of countless worlds, and our own was but a speck that I could not see.

## The Animal Eliminated.

"I have already told you more than I am permitted to but I must tell you something about the people. They resembled us in general figure and feature but the same greater beauty that I had seen in the inanimate scenery was present here. In every face and figure the animal was almost entirely eliminated. Their features were cast in a mold of spiritual beauty and nowhere were there in form or feature evidences of bodily indignities of any kind.

## The Garden of Paradise.

"To myself I have always called that planet 'the garden of paradise.' That is the only name that can convey any idea of its unearthly beauty. "Several times I have been to worlds lower than ours, but I do not wish to talk of them. I have seen things as inconceivably horrible as those were beautiful. It makes me shudder now every time I think of those frightful scenes.

## How She Sees the Past.

"That is practically the only one of my former lives in which I remember the facts sequentially. In the others I remember only single scenes generally.

"In the life previous to the last one my father was a wealthy Greek who moved to Rome. I was called Lucella Vera. I had my same independent spirit, which manifested itself in this case in the way I wore my hair. I had so much hair that I could not do it up in the fashion of the times, so I wore it in braids down my back.

A feature in connection with this life is that I have met two people in New York who knew me in that incarnation.

There is nothing wonderful in this. I attribute my knowledge of my past lives partly to my remarkable memory and partly to the fact that in each case I died conscious and knowing that I was going to die.

The trouble is that men do not realize what the human will can accomplish. There is nothing in the universe that is not open to the soul if the mind is strong enough to free it from the body. As I said before, we who follow the higher life do not as a rule risk the ridicule of the world by telling these truths. Mankind will learn them all in time. But I will tell you briefly some of my own experiences.

## First Flights Through Space.

About this time, while in London, I came into contact with a master, one of the greatest. His name was Marius. He recognized my power, and with his soul I made my first flights through space. He introduced me into an order to which none can be elected excepting those who have reached the plane of our circle. There I was taught how to leave my body at will and how to return to it. Without this teaching I might in one of my flights, have remained too long, and not knowing how to re-enter my body, I would have been found dead.

When I started out into space for the first time the initial sensation was one of darkness, of overwhelming, oppressive blackness unknown on earth. Then gradually out of the void a big, dim, red ball took hazy form, until I recognized it as the earth. 'Then this slowly faded and disappeared, and I was alone in space.

Can you imagine the awful sensation of realizing that you are rushing through the universe, the exultation of feeling that you are answering the call of the unknown that has stirred the souls of men from the beginning?"

Her whole body seemed to grow tense, and her eyes glowed with an almost spiritual light.

"I could not pretend to keep an account of time, but after, it seemed to me, some hours of this flying, before me in space a star was growing larger and larger. In seemingly a few minutes after I had noticed I was approaching it the star had grown into a great planet and I was upon it.

"I wish it were possible for me to give you some idea of that new world. It was a wonderland of beauty. In general respects it resembled our own, but it was so much more gloriously beautiful. The trees, the mountains, the flowers, the rivers, the valleys, and every part of the scene were woven into a harmonious whole that was more wonderful than any dream.

"I have already told you more than I am permitted to but I must tell you something about the people. They resembled us in general figure and feature but the same greater beauty that I had seen in the inanimate scenery was present here. In every face and figure the animal was almost entirely eliminated. Their features were cast in a mold of spiritual beauty and nowhere were there in form or feature evidences of bodily indignities of any kind.

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"Yes, my soul has made trips on this earth. Here is an instance of what is possible when one is in the higher life. One night as I lay in bed I heard the voice of a dear old friend calling me to come to her. I left my body. I went out through the walls of the house and in through the walls of hers to her bedside. She was lying awake and very still. She lay there for some time, apparently ill, and finally went to sleep.

"The next day I went to see her and she told me that she had been slightly ill during the night and had been thinking of me. I described to her her position in bed, what she did and at what hour she had been awake. She

## was burned at the stake many years ago.

"That is practically the only one of my former lives in which I remember the facts sequentially. In the others I remember only single scenes generally.

"In the life previous to the last one my father was a wealthy Greek who moved to Rome. I was called Lucella Vera. I had my same independent spirit, which manifested itself in this case in the way I wore my hair. I had so much hair that I could not do it up in the fashion of the times, so I wore it in braids down my back.

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## Earthquakes and their Causes.

We find the following in George's Weekly of Denver, Colorado, April 26, issue:

"A few days ago one of the daily papers contained an expression from a number of noted scientists relative to the catastrophe at San Francisco. It is most satisfactory for the world to have some great men who know things. There is where the compensation comes in for the money expended on our colleges and universities.

Read what these scientific gentlemen say through the columns of the paper: Professor Howe, Denver University: 'Earth is cooling, and shrinkage of interior causes cracking of exterior.'

Professor Milne of London: 'An upheaval in the interior of earth.'

Professor Davidson, University of California: 'Direction of the disturbances ran from north to south.'

Professor Goode, Chicago University: 'Due to the Rocky mountains, which are gradually rising.'

Professor Van Hise, University of Wisconsin: 'San Francisco is dangerously located and will always be subject to severe shocks.'

Professor Holland, Carnegie Institute: 'Trouble is due to Mount Tacoma.'

Professor Wright, Yale: 'Caused by earthquakes now going on in Japan and Formosa.'

Professor Totten, former Yale prophet: 'The whole universe is wound up for disaster.'

Professor Pearson, Yale: 'All California may be shattered by an earthquake at any time.'

These professors ought to have held a convention before they delivered themselves of their wisdom to the world, as the average, plodding citizen, seeking information, is naturally somewhat rattled after reading what they have to say. It appears to be a case of paying your money and taking your choice.

Our own professor Howe says the shrinkage of the interior caused a cracking of the exterior. It follows, therefore, that an expansion of the interior would mean a shrinkage of the exterior, or in other words the more you inflate a balloon the smaller it grows. The experience of the small boy with a bladder contradicts this theory, but the professor is entitled to his opinion."

We wish that George's Weekly had given us the photographs of these distinguished scientists. Perhaps Life (New York) might supply them. Clearly, what they don't know isn't worth knowing. We think that all of them are entitled to receive from their respective colleges and universities the degree of F. D., which, being interpreted, means flying Dutchman. Geo. T. Angell.

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Men's Two-Piece Summer Suits California price \$11.50. Eastern price—our price \$8  
Men's Gray-Plaid Business Suit California price \$12.50. Eastern price—our price—\$8.50.

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## THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE HORROR

MOUNT VESUVIUS' ERUPTIONS AND THE WORLD'S GREAT DISASTERS GRAPHICALLY TOLD AND BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED

THIS BOOK, just from the press, is one that you want. The columns printed describing the destruction of San Francisco and its surrounding cities have not told half the story. Then the recent eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, destroying fair cities of Italy as it destroyed Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 A. D., is fresh in every mind. Recounting faithfully other events, the books is a COMPLETE HISTORY of earthquakes, volcanoes and other great disasters that have brought sorrow and suffering to millions. This book, in beautiful cloth binding, is illustrated from photographic views of San Francisco and surrounding towns, taken immediately after the disaster, together with accurate views of Mt. Vesuvius and its surroundings. In fact every event described, is thus illustrated. The book contains 400 pages, printed on good paper from new type, and will be a valuable addition to any library. Through our close arrangements with the most progressive of all weekly newspapers—THE WEEKLY INTER OCEAN—we offer you a year's subscription to the AMADOR LEDGER and the Weekly Inter Ocean and this book for only \$2.90. Order to-day. Books will be delivered from the Amador Ledger office. If by mail 25c extra for postage must be added.

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## Sad Death of a Little Girl

Little May Bray, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Bray, came to her death by accidental drowning last Saturday afternoon near the family home at Blue Kavine. The little girl had been playing in the yard and was missed by her mother, who thought that the child had gone to meet the father, who was due home from work. Mr Bray soon arrived, but had seen nothing of the little one. A search was immediately made and her parents were horrified when they found the dead body of their daughter in a ditch not far from the house. The child had evidently wandered to the place and fallen into the ditch. Little May was a bright, pretty child, aged 2 years, 5 months and 18 days, and

## Assessor's Notice.

The county assessor hereby announces that he will be at his office in Jackson, from now on for the purpose of assessing taxable property, and receiving statements from property-holders.

J. MARCHANT, County Assessor.

Jayne's Tonic Vermifuge gives rosy cheeks and active health to pale, sickly children. And it is good for their elders, too. Ask your druggist for it.