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ASTRONOMY.
 Its Exactness Illustrated by the Discovery of Neptune.
 There is perhaps no more striking illustration of the power of scientific method than that relating to the discovery of Neptune in 1846. The planet Uranus, until then the outermost known member of our solar system, refused to follow the path computed for it by mathematical astronomers. With the progress of time the discrepancies between its predicted and observed positions grew constantly larger until in the early eighteen-forties the discordance amounted to fully seventy-five seconds of arc. This is a small angle, not more than one-twenty-fifth the angular diameter of our moon, yet a very large angle to refined astronomy, for a discrepancy of two seconds would have been detected with ease. The opinion gradually developed that Uranus was drawn from its natural course by the attractions of an undiscovered planet still farther from the sun than itself. Adams in 1843 and Le Verrier in 1845 independently and each without knowledge of the other's plans attacked the then extremely difficult problem of determining the approximate orbit, mass and position of an undiscovered body whose attractions should produce the perturbations observed. Regrettable and avoidable delays occurred in searching for the planet after Adams' results were communicated to the astronomer royal in October, 1845. Le Verrier's results were communicated to the Berlin observatory in September, 1846, with the request that a search be made. The disturbing planet, later named Neptune, was found on the first evening that it was looked for less than one degree of arc from the position assigned by Le Verrier. If an energetic search had been made in England the year before the planet would have been discovered within two degrees of the position assigned by Adams.—Professor W. W. Campbell in Popular Science Monthly.

The Smuggled Box.
 A joker had some fun with the customs officials at New York some years ago. A servant had gone ashore from a German liner with a basket and was about to leave the pier when a passenger whispered to a customs officer that he had better see what the basket contained. Following the tip, the basket bearer was detained, and a wooden box was found among a lot of soiled linen. The box contained another and this still another box, the third securely fastened with screws. When these were removed a card was discovered on which was written in three languages. "This is the 1st of April. Many happy returns of the day."

CHANGED HIS MIND.
 Influence of a Game of Golf Upon a Man's Life.
 A New York pastor received a call in his study one morning not long ago from a man with whom he had a pleasant but not intimate acquaintance. And the visitor told him without much ado that he had called on a peculiar errand.
 "Some time ago," he said, "as you know, I lost my wife. I have no children, I have no kinsfolk, and I am very lonely in the world. Last week, by an unlucky speculation, I lost my whole fortune. I am therefore without companionship, without occupation, without money. I am too old to start again, and I have no joy in life as it is. I have deliberately decided, therefore, to commit suicide. And I called to tell you of my purpose and to ask the favor of you that when my body is found you will make such an explanation as your good judgment and kindly feeling toward me may suggest. I have come simply to ask this favor and not to argue the question, which I have settled for myself. If you do me this last service I shall be very grateful."
 The preacher said little and was far too wise to undertake to dissuade him, but he permitted the man to say all that he had to say without interruption.
 Then as he was going away the preacher called to him and said:
 "I have not seen you on the golf links for some time. You use to enjoy the game."
 "Yes," said the other.
 "Well, go out and play one more game today before you carry out your purpose."
 The man smiled for the first time and went to the golf course and—he is living yet.—World's Work.

Old Time Gas Charges.
 The price of gas in the early part of the last century is shown by a schedule of charges issued by the Liverpool Gaslight company in the year 1817. Instead of so much per cubic foot being levied each individual burner was charged for, and the price varied according to the hour at which the light was to be extinguished. Thus for using one No. 1 Argand burner up till 8 p. m. £3 per annum had to be paid. For the right to keep it alight until 9 43 18s. was the figure, while those roistering blades who sat up till 10, 11 or 12 had to disburse £4 10s., £5 12s. and £6 8s. respectively. Imagine the gas bill at a house where ten or twelve burners are flaring away until the small hours if such a method of taxation were in force nowadays!—Liverpool Post.

Be not arrogant when fortune smiles nor dejected when she frowns.—Antonius

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