

"James Fenimore Cooper was the eleventh of twelve children," Dr. Key states. "On the other hand, James Madison was the eldest of twelve." General Sherman came exactly in the middle of a large family, being sixth in a group of eleven. Numerous other examples give equally dissimilar rankings, and statistical curves seem to indicate merely the application of the regular law of averages both to position in family and age of parents.

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#### NAVY ASTRONOMER PLANNING FOR NEXT ECLIPSE

Naval vessels will be put to scientific uses when a party of astronomers from the U.S. Naval Observatory sails from San Francisco on September 1 for Manila, en route to Sumatra, where they will observe an eclipse of the sun January 14, 1926, according to Captain F.B. Littell, who will be in charge of the expedition. The scientific apparatus to be taken along has already been shipped from the observatory, Capt. Littell said, as it will be taken by way of the Panama Canal to San Francisco, and will be picked up before they sail.

In addition to Capt. Littell, the party will include Prof. George H. Peters, associate astronomer, and G.M. Raynsford, assistant astronomer, both of the observatory staff, and Dr. John M. Anderson of the Mt. Wilson Observatory, of California. A number of sailors will also accompany the party and will assist in the erection of the apparatus. The chief instrument to be used is a camera 65 feet long which will be built in Sumatra. Lumber will be transported from the United States, however, as bamboo is the chief form used in Sumatra, and it is not suitable. Another camera of 113 inches length will be used as well as several smaller ones.

The exact location of the camp has not been determined, but according to the present plans, the party will proceed first to Palembang by boat, and from there a railroad may be taken to Lahat, in the interior. This is about 30 miles from Tebingtinggi, one of the sites being considered, but it is not known whether transportation to the point will be easily available. This is about 100 miles from Benkoelen, on the west coast, where a party from the Sproul Observatory of Swarthmore College will make their headquarters.

This eclipse is more favorable than the one that occurred last January in New England because the sun is higher in the sky and it lasts several minutes longer. The chances for clear weather are not much better, however, for Capt. Littell stated that they are about 60 to 40 in favor of clouds at the crucial moment.

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#### COLLEGE GIRLS SHOW SPEECH DEFECTS

That detection and correction of speech defects in college students is an important factor in eliminating handicaps which might persist in later life is the conclusion of Doctor Sara M. Stinchfield, of Mount Holyoke College, in a report in the Journal of Applied Psychology.

Five hundred freshman college women entering Mount Holyoke were submitted to standardized tests in voice and speech. Serious cases of lisping, stuttering and indistinct utterance were found, and personality difficulties due to speech disorders were discovered. About one sixth of the entire freshman class were found to have speech defects.

From the standpoint of articulation and most frequent causes of failure in

the tests were the provincialisms and local dialects in New England and the middle Atlantic states, the inverted "r" of the middle West and the quality of the southern vowels. A high percentage of inaccuracies on "s" and "z" sounds and their combinations were found. Lack of proper breath control and rhythm were responsible for some faults.

On the whole, students from private schools did better than those from public schools, and those who had had a little speech training seemed to pass the tests more easily than those who had received none.

Those students in whom speech defects were found were assigned to special classes in which the defects were overcome by proper training before the college course was completed.

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TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

QUO VADIMUS? Some Glimpses of the Future. By E.E. Fournier  
 d'Albe, New York, E.P. Dutton and Company, \$1.00,

Dutton's "Today and Tomorrow" series of science booklets that started off with a bang by Haldane's "Daedalus" keeps up its interest like a serial story. Each successive issue presents a new problem and forecasts new solutions, after the manner of a well constructed detective tale.

In the latest, Dr. Fournier d'Albe guesses what the world will be a thousand and even a million years hence. By 2925 we shall see "A globe laid out like a huge garden, with a climate under perfect control, the internal heat of the earth brought to the surface and utilized as a source of never-failing energy. Portions of the interior of the earth reclaimed and made habitable; all machinery and sources of power wisely distributed and made instantly available for all legitimate purposes. The earth's surface and the rippling ether in which it swims made into a vast playground of human thought and emotion, and all mankind throbbing in unison to every great thought. The earth will have become a sentient being. Mankind will be the grey matter of its brain."

E.E. Slosson

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 SPACE AND TIME by Carl Benedicks, with an introduction by  
 Sir Oliver Lodge, New York: E.P. Dutton and Company.

An original contribution to the Einstein controversy by a former professor of physics at the University of Stockholm. He is unwilling to accept the startling consequences of the theory of relativity, so he takes the other alternative, almost equally startling, of reverting to the corpuscular theory of light emission, in place of the prevailing theory of ether waves. In place of Einstein he follows Ritz, the Swiss mathematician.

E.E. Slosson

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 The moons of the planet Jupiter were the first astronomical objects to be discovered with the use of a telescope.

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 The African Gold Coast furnishes half of the world's supply of cocoa.  
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