

# ANNIVERSARIES OF SCIENCE

**October 17, 1907.**—First regular wireless dispatch over the Atlantic Ocean for commercial purposes. Messages were sent from Ireland to Glace Bay, N. S. The following message was received from Sir Norman Lockyer:

All honor to the country where, beyond all others, the Central Government, the State Legislatures, and private citizens foster education and research as the true, and indeed the only, foundation of a nation's greatness. Such a nation will be the one to profit most from the future victories of science, which are certain to beggar the achievements of the present as wireless telegraphy pales the achievements of the past.

**October 22, 1891.**—Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of Tuberculin as a cure for tuberculosis.

Against his own judgment he (Koch) was trying to convince himself he had discovered a cure for tuberculosis. The authorities . . . were putting pressure on him . . . "We have showered you with medals and microscopes and guinea-pigs—take a chance now, and give us a big cure, for the glory of the Fatherland, as Pasteur has done for the glory of France!" It was ominous stuff like this that Koch was always hearing. He listened at last, and who can blame him, for what man can remain at his proper business of finding out the ways of microbes with Governments bawling for a place in the sun—or with mothers calling? So Koch listened and prepared his own disaster by telling the world about his "Tuberculin."

—Paul de Kruif: *Microbe Hunters*.

**October 24, 1851.**—Ariel and Umbriel, interior moons of Uranus, discovered by Lassell.

Uranus has four moons, of which the outside one takes a little less than half the period of our moon to encircle its planet, while the inmost one goes round in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days. A curious thing about the satellites of Uranus is that they all go in orbits inclined nearly at right angles to the ecliptic. Thus it happened in 1882 and 1924 that their orbits were seen edge-wise, and the satellites seemed to us to swing north and south on each side of the planet. In 1903 and 1945, on the other hand, the orbits of the satellites present their true circular form.

—Abbot: *The Earth and the Stars*.

**October 27, 1904.**—The New York Subway was opened. In an editorial on that day, the *New York Times* remarked:

In this joyous hour when the great city exults that it has at last got a veritable rapid transit railroad, let those among us who are of sober and philosophic bent bow their heads in humility and deplore the weakness, the irresolution, and the infirmity of purpose which have made us take such an unconscionable time in getting it.

A column of questions likely to be asked was printed, with their answers. From it we select the following:

Q. Will every passenger get a

seat A. There are straps in the cars for overcrowded times.

*Readers are invited to send in important dates and appropriate quotations that should be noted in this department.*

Science News-Letter, October 16, 1926

## TECHNOLOGY

### An Almost Human Clock

A clock that turns the lights of the house off or on at any time desired and almost puts out the cat was recently exhibited at the National Research Council. The clock is termed almost human by its inventor, Dr. J. F. Van Slyke of the Horological Institute of America. It resembles an everyday clock, but it is wound up by a motor built into the movement and operated by the ordinary house electric current. Not only does it record the time of the day but also the day of the month and the month of the year. This is indicated by two small hands in place of the second hand.

The clock can be so set that it will turn the electric lights in the house or office where it is located off or on at any time desired. If the electric current is accidentally cut off the clock will keep on running for more than four days without electrical winding, and at the end of that time if the current is turned on again the clock will "pick up" the lost windings.

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## GENERAL SCIENCE

### The Spirit of Science

Quotation from *SCIENCE AND LIFE*, by Frederick Soddy. New York: Dutton.

Rather than being in league with militarism and armament firms, science is, in fact, the only really working socialism. Scientific men work too often without reward for the love of their science, and freely publish their discoveries for the good of the whole community. Though the contributor of the last mite of knowledge usually gets popular credit for the whole discovery, the advance of science as a whole is entirely bound up with this communism of its inheritance. The spirit of secrecy, and of individual ownership of knowledge, is absolutely antagonistic to the spirit of science.

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When a wealthy man died in China it was once customary to kill his servants and bury them with him, so that he might be properly attended in the spirit world.

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## Memory Rimes

### The Geological Eras

Archæo, Protero-, Paleo-, Meso-, and Cenozoic Ages—

These rimes will bind  
Them all in your mind  
Like so many birds in cages!

Archæozoic—

In Archæozoic times  
Grew the first primeval slimes.

Proterozoic—

Invertebrates in early stages.  
Filled the Proterozoic ages.

Paleozoic—

Cam-, Ordo-, Sil-, Dev-, Carbo-, Perm—  
Make up the good old Paleo- term.

Mesozoic—

The Meso- Era, not so spacious,  
Holds Trias, Juras and Cretaceous.

Cenozoic—

Eo-, Oligo-, Mi- and Pli-  
Pass the Ceno- Era by.

Paleozoic subdivisions—

Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian,  
Devonian, Carboniferous, Permian.  
Sea-life marks the Cambrian,  
Fish the Ordovician.  
Siluric seas invade the lands,  
Amphibians tread Devonian strands.  
In Carbon times the insects grow.  
The Permians many reptiles show.

Mesozoic subdivisions—

Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous.  
Triassic dinosaurs arise,  
Jurassic bird and reptile flies;  
Earliest mammals are Cretaceous—  
Insects too, and flowers herbaceous.

Cenozoic subdivisions—

Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene,  
Pliocene, Pleistocene.  
In Eocene and Oligo—  
We see the higher mammals grow.  
In Mi- and Pli-, Man takes the stage,  
Till Pleisto- brings the glacial age.  
—Sir Richard Paget.

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## BIOLOGY

### The Lesson of the Lobster

The lobster's home is in the sea  
And now his presence is revealed  
But he has wandered far afield  
And now his presence is revealed  
Within our Best Society!  
This lesson to us all is sent  
To give us due encouragement.

—D. S. Jordan,  
*Eric's Book of Beasts*.

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