

## June Skies

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has gone to Fagernes, in Norway. With him is Dr. Harlan T. Stetson, of Harvard University.

In England, the coming eclipse has attracted tremendous popular interest, just as the one of January, 1925, did in the United States. It is the first eclipse that has crossed the British Isles since 1724, and the last until 1999, so a large portion of the British population will be concentrated along the path of totality for the half-minute that the eclipse will last. In Norway, it will last a few seconds longer, and the sun at the time will be higher in the sky. Both of these factors are advantageous to the astronomer, and are additional reasons for the choice of Norway.

## Comet Nearby

The comet which makes such a close visit to the earth in June is really of more scientific than general interest. It is a rather small comet, as comets go, and on previous visits has never showed a tail, which most people consider one of the earmarks, or perhaps "tailmarks," of a comet. Its only interest at this time is found in the fact that it is coming so close, and will be only about 3,500,000 miles away on June 27, or about fourteen and a half times as far as the moon, and much closer than any other astronomical body ordinarily comes.

However, it is the close approach of a comet to the sun that excites it to brilliance, and when closest to that body, on June 21, it will still be nearly a hundred million miles away. At the closest position to the earth, it will be in the constellation of Aquila, near the bright star Altair, which, this month, is directly south about 3:00 a. m. With a small telescope, it will be easily visible as a faint patch of light, and may even be visible to the unaided eye, as it will be just about at the limit of brightness required for naked eye visibility, about the sixth magnitude.

The comet is a historic one, despite its small size. First discovered by a French astronomer, named Pons, in 1819, at Marseilles, it was then lost until Winnecke, a German astronomer at the University of Bonn, found a comet in 1858, which proved to be the same one. Its period, or the time between successive returns to the neighborhood of the sun, is a little over six years, and since Winnecke rediscovered it,

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## PSYCHIATRY

### Missing the Feeble-Minded

The pathetic picture of the unrecognized feeble-minded child, struggling along in school, with dull face and open mouth, having tonsils out, adenoids out, eyes tested, all to no avail, was presented before the recent meeting of the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-Minded, at Cincinnati, by Dr. H. H. Ramsay, superintendent of the Mississippi School and Colony for Feeble-Minded.

Medical schools give such limited courses in the brain and nervous system that doctors often do not recognize signs of inherited abnormality, Dr. Ramsay pointed out.

The physical basis of feeble-mindedness is well established, he said: "On post mortem examination, the brains of feeble-minded persons show three distinct features as compared to normal brain. First, imperfection of the cells; second, numerical deficiency of cells; third, irregular arrangement of cells.

"Furthermore, we are now certain that actual brain pathology of inherent character is translated into social pathology. As examples, there are the feeble-minded prostitute, the feeble-minded criminal, the pauper, the psychopath, and many other abnormalities due to subnormal intelligence or to an inherently unstable nervous system."

The physician cannot ignore this problem, and he has a great service to render in reducing these inherited abnormalities, Dr. Ramsay said. One scientist who studied family histories of 200 feeble-minded individuals found that 80 per cent of them were descendants of individuals with pronounced nervous disease. Syphilis is found to play an important part in producing these defectives.

"With the passing of the old order of things and new teaching, with ample clinical material at hand," said Dr. Ramsay, "the physician of the present and future should be better prepared to advise his clientele accurately concerning these varieties of defect which in the main are innate and not amenable to cure or even treatment by drugs or gland extracts. These instead are subjects for proper training, suited to their ability, or life-long care and supervision."

How a large group of girls whose minds have stayed like those of very little children are being successfully taught to dress themselves, to take care of themselves, and to make use-

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## SEISMOLOGY

### Quake Possibly in China

Months may elapse before details of the earthquake which was felt by siesmograph instruments throughout the world on Sunday, May 22, are known, even though it was one of the most severe quakes on record and thousands were undoubtedly killed. According to Commander N. H. Heck, in charge of the earthquake investigations of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, after studying reports from seismograph observatories gathered by Science Service, the quake was about 35 degrees north latitude and 100 degrees east longitude, which places it in western China or eastern Tibet. It occurred at 5.33 P. M., eastern standard time.

This region is one that has been visited by destructive quakes in the past, for on September 16, 1920, there occurred the Kan-Su earthquake in the same region, named after the province of China in which it occurred. At this time, though the damage was severe and an estimated total of 100,000 persons were killed, it was three months before the outside world knew about it.

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## ARCHAEOLOGY

### Derrick Saves Totem Poles

The Dominion Government Totem Pole Preservation outfit has arrived at Skeena Crossing, B. C., with a flat car load of hoisting gear, including the huge derrick used for erecting fallen poles. This gear came from the totem pole village of Kitwanga where the government work of totem pole preservation was carried on during the past two seasons to the great interest of the tourists who are allowed to walk through the Githsan Indian village while the trains stop for water.

This year the work of totem pole preservation will be carried on at Gytsegyuela, a village about a mile below Skeena Crossing, where there are eighteen huge totem poles close to the river bank plainly seen from the railroad car windows for over half a mile on the opposite side of the Skeena river. The northern end of the Pacific highway is at present within four miles of Gytsegyuela so that automobile parties from many parts of the United States can now come close to this remarkable collection of totem poles and in a few weeks the road gang will resume work on the highway and push it on past Skeena Crossing, Gytsegyuela and well towards Kitwanga during the present season.

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