

MINERALOGY

Search for Lost Meteorite

Somewhere in Nevada there is a lost meteorite. Forty-five years ago it blazed its way to earth through the evening sky. Since then repeated attempts to trace it to its final resting place have ended in failure. The latest fruitless search took place last month and has just been brought to a close with the return to New York of Dr. Chester A. Reeds, associate curator of invertebrate palaeontology in the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Reeds headed the searching party sent out by the museum in response to a recent report that the meteorite lay buried in a haystack yard in the upper end of the Jackson Valley, Jackson Mountains, Nevada.

The original report of the meteorite's arrival on this planet came from Tuscarora, a silver mining camp in the northern part of Nevada. Several witnesses there observed its passage through the sky at twilight one evening in the fall of the year, about 1882 or 1883. All agreed that it was an unusually large meteorite and that it undoubtedly landed in Nevada. But estimates of its specific landing place have differed widely and have so far all been wrong.

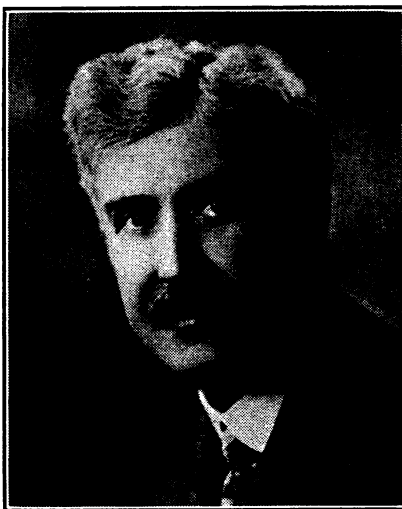
One of the eye-witnesses estimated that the meteorite fell fourteen to sixteen miles from Tuscarora and said that some persons who claimed to have dug down to it reported it to have fallen in a creek bottom where the bed-rock formation was not very near the surface, the meteorite going into the earth thirty-four feet and still remaining raised above the surrounding landscape.

Another observer, a mining engineer who was in Tuscarora at the time, gave a graphic description of what he saw.

"I remember distinctly," he said, "seeing what I presumed to be the cloud left by the passing of the meteor. I was in the open and looked up and saw what seemed to me a coil of smoke of a peculiar color, much like the fluorescent color of Willemite under the ultra violet ray, or the color of molten gold. It was not in a straight line, but seemed to have convolutions. I was very much astonished at the sight and for a moment was unable to comprehend it or to assign any cause to the phenomenon. I did not see the meteor itself, nor did I see the place where it landed. I believe the cattlemen reported it to have fallen in the country west of Mt. Blitzen. It

(Just turn the page)

PSYCHOLOGY



BIRD T. BALDWIN

Specialist in Babies

Baldwin babies are a popular brand in Iowa, where Dr. Bird Baldwin directs the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station. Parents all over the state bring up their children scientifically by Baldwin methods, and a considerable number send their babies as young as 16 months to get their earliest education in what a baby should know directly from Dr. Baldwin and his assistants.

In scientific circles, this psychologist stands out as one of the pioneers in studying the normal development of young children. His child research station, founded at the University of Iowa ten years ago, was unique when he opened it, and today it is still a well known standard for many similar institutions.

As a result of thousands of experiments and careful record taking, the station has added materially to modern knowledge of these first years of life. Records on 800 babies less than two years of age have been accumulated, and in the anatomical line alone, 659,000 X-ray plates are available showing the growth of the child. The growth curves compiled at this station have been copied widely in scientific books on child and racial development.

Dr. Baldwin, who is playing so large a part in the normal development of young Iowans, is not a native of the tall corn state. He was born in Marshalltown, Pa., in 1875. His Ph. D. degree is from Harvard, 1905. In twenty-seven years he has taught psychology and education in universities as far east as Johns Hopkins and as far west as the University of Texas.

Science News-Letter, July 16, 1927

VULCANOLOGY

Eruption Just Beginning

The awakening of Kilauea, the Hawaiian volcano which after three years quiescence is now again pouring out lava, is considered by volcanologists to be the first stage of a lengthy period during which the inner crater, Halemaumau, will gradually fill with the molten rock.

Experts do not look for a repetition of the great explosive eruption of 1924 when the crater of the inner "Pit of Everlasting Fire" was enlarged ten times. Another sort of eruption is now in progress.

Kilauea is one of the five great volcanoes which have joined in forming the Island of Hawaii. Besides Kilauea, Mauna Loa and Hualalai have been active in historic times. Kilauea consists of a low dome 4,040 feet high on the southeast side of the great dome of Mauna Loa, three times as high. On Kilauea's summit is a shallow crater, three miles long and two miles wide, and in the floor of the crater is the pit of Halemaumau, a hole about 3,500 feet across extending about 1,300 feet below the rim of the volcano. It is within this great fire pit that the lava has now reappeared.

It is estimated that there is now about 50 feet of lava in the inner pit and that it will take about a year for this great hole to fill. When filled, the lava will flow out upon the floor of the main crater.

Upon the very rim of this crater now showing renewed activity there is an observatory from which scientists keep constant watch upon the sleeping volcano. This unique institution is under the direction of Dr. Thomas A. Jaggar who at present is in Alaska investigating volcanoes there and planning similar observatories for that territory. In his absence R. M. Wilson is in charge. Each week for the past few years a letter reporting Kilauea's condition has been issued to the scientists of the world.

Kilauea's present activity is being watched with interest by two Washington scientific organizations, the U. S. Geological Survey under whose jurisdiction the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory falls, and the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington which has conducted investigations of volcanic explosions throughout the world.

Dr. Arthur L. Day, director of the Geophysical Laboratory, has made personal investigations at Kilauea and is waiting further re-

(Just turn the page)

Eruption Just Beginning

(Continued from page 39)

ports of the eruption with interest before determining whether further research will be undertaken.

In less scientific days there would be wide-spread attempts at the appeasement of the anger of Pele, the dreaded goddess of Kilauea. Even today native Hawaiians are reported to have made offerings to the volcano.

While much must still be learned about volcanoes, science now knows that they are local affairs, comparatively small test tubes for cosmic chemistry, and not outlets for a vast interior mass of liquid fire deep within the earth. It has also been discovered that the boiling lava is hotter at the top than it is in its depth.

Science News-Letter, July 16, 1927

Lepers so often suffer from other diseases also that only about three per cent. of them die from leprosy itself.

The "sea flea" which moves in a series of hops has been known to attain a speed in the water of 60 miles an hour.

The Maharajah of Navanagar crossed a tiger and a lion and produced a "tigon" which was sent to the London Zoo.

Photographs of the inside of a machine gun or service rifle barrel are made by means of a small periscope passed through the bore, the images being recorded on a moving picture film.



MEMORANDUM

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Last Meteorite

(Continued from page 39)

was seen by quite a number of people at the time, talked of and forgotten."

The report that brought about the recent expedition was as detailed as it proved unfounded. The meteorite, it was said, fell on soft ground, penetrating the earth to an unknown depth, leaving a hole some six feet in diameter with raised rim and burning off the greasewood and sage brush around the hole for a distance of 200 yards. The soft ground about the hole, it was further stated, was baked by the meteorite so that it resembled a porous cork, light in weight. And the location was definitely given in the upper end of the Jackson Valley. Dr. Reeds, however, failed to find the meteorite. More than that, the location, he discovered, had none of the features described, but was an ancient flood plain deposit consisting primarily of water-worn pebbles and rounded boulders set in a moderate amount of alluvial earth.

But Dr. Reeds has not lost hope. The distance between Tuscarora where the meteorite was observed in the sky and the Jackson Mountains is 120 miles. Between these two points are many desert valleys, any one of which, as he points out, may harbor the ultimate resting place of Nevada's lost meteorite.

Science News-Letter, July 16, 1927

An ostrich has 25 white plumes in each wing.

Stones found in an ostrich's gizzard were once thought to be good medicine for eye diseases.

Taxes on automobiles in Europe are heavy; in some instances the tax is 50 per cent. of the car's cost.

A liquid to make wood fireproof has been patented by a Norwegian, according to report from Oslo.

The Jarrah, a Eucalyptus tree of Australia, sometimes sends its roots down 120 feet to insure its water supply.

Smallpox marks on the mummy of Rameses V indicate that this disease was known to the Egyptians of about 1200 B. C.

During the month of October, when deer hunting was permitted in the Kaibib Forest, in Arizona, 553 deer were killed.