

## Arctic Mummies—Cont'd

And old men have sat for centuries posed beside their drums, as if waiting to play for the winter dances.

*Science News-Letter, July 14, 1928*

Ants sometimes raid beehives, killing off large numbers of bees.

Ages ago, when the earth rotated faster than it does now, a day on the earth was much shorter than our 24-hour day.

An average of 1,000 live birds from foreign countries enter the United States each day, mostly for zoos and cage pets.

The only insects that man has ever set to work on a large scale directly for him are the honeybee and the silkworm.

The brain of Dr. William Osler, famous physician, has been weighed and pronounced slightly heavier than that of the average person.

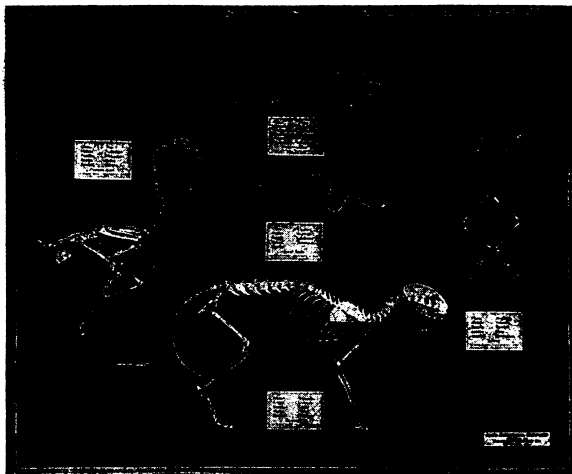
The Frenchman, Frans Mesmer, who preached the healing power of magnetism, sold magnets as remedies for headaches and other ills.

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# An Antidote for Specializitis

*General Science*

Editorial in *Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering*:

When the "popular" style of literature on the "marvels of chemistry" was a novelty, it wasn't so bad. A certain amount of "hokum" was expected and tolerated by educated readers because it was recognized that the prime mission of such treatises was to interest and inform the lay public. Now that the novelty has worn off, however, the diet begins to pall. One sighs a bit over the "laid-end-to-end" figures, turns the page and hopes. Then "suppose the atom were enlarged to the size of a hickory nut" provokes a restrained yawn, but hope still lingers. Eventually, however, the inevitable happens, for without so much as inviting us to "stop me if you've heard it," the author presents an intimate account of his private life, beginning with the chemically active first rays of the sun shining through chemically made glass, on synthetic-dyed draperies, artificial leather slippers, etc., continuing through a Thorpe

Dictionary day to a chemically pure but contagious slumber. One is tempted to speculate that if all the "chemical days" thus chronicled were laid end to end . . . but perhaps that is unkind.

Let no one underestimate the tremendous progress made in the past decade in educating the layman to an appreciation of the ubiquitous benefits of science, particularly of chemistry. Let no one scoff at the ingenious art of making first page news of technical developments. Let us freely acknowledge the genius of those scientifically trained men who saw in this field their mission, and are effectively materializing their vision. Such recognition involves no inconsistency, for we are confident that Dr. Edwin E. Slosson, for instance, will never knowingly tell us the story of his "chemical day." In fact he is quick to recognize the existence of a great group of readers who are loath to wade through "a long-passed freshman course in elemental science all tangled

up with what might be one really meaty bone of new fact."

The announcement that Doctor Slosson is preparing a series of books written "straight across" to a discriminating group instead of being "written down" to a relatively unschooled reader, is interesting and promising. Such a series will find a welcome with the well-educated reader who wants to know something about what is going on outside his own specialized bailiwick. Perhaps it may even revise the curriculum of the "popular" school of literature and relegate such old favorites as "And so the ancient alchemists were not so far wrong after all," to an appropriate place beside the daily bed-time story.

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Nine states have a population each of less than 500,000 people.

Diseases cut down the cotton crop last year by nearly 15 per cent.