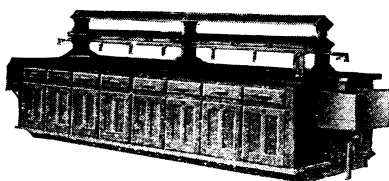


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the importance of properly-designed, properly-built laboratory furniture, and how much influence it exerts upon the character of work of the students.

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Geological Meetings—Continued

for the first time, at the eastern end of the Caribbean Sea there also began to rise from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean a long string of submarine volcanoes, and about 50 million years ago the northern half of them appeared as the Caribbee volcanic islands, many of which have ever since retained intermittently active volcanoes. The newest of these volcanoes are the southern Caribbees.

"The present geography came into existence more than a million years ago, but during this short geological interval the islands grew somewhat larger when northern North America and Europe were deeply covered by ice, but shrunk to their present dimensions when these ice sheets melted back into the ocean, thus returning the water that had been taken from it."

Earth's Activity in Movies

The earth growing before one's eyes, streams in flood, volcanoes erupting, waves smashing, portrayed on a motion picture film, will play an important part in the education of future geologists, Prof. Kirtley F. Mather of Harvard predicted to the Geological Society of America in exhibiting special reels of educational motion pictures.

Laboratory experiments can be made once under ideal conditions and shown to large classes many times without the danger of failure if they are recorded on movie film, Dr. Mather said. Animated drawing showed how earthquake vibrations travel through the interior of the earth and record themselves on seismographs.

Island to Vanish Again

Falcon Island, the jack-in-the-box of the Pacific, which has two disappearances and three volcanic reappearances to its credit, will be again destroyed by the waves within a few years if there is no further volcanic action, the Geological Society of America was told.

Prof. J. Edward Hoffmeister and Harold L. Alling of the University of Rochester and Prof. Harry S. Ladd of the University of Virginia reported the results of a visit paid the South Pacific volcano last summer just two weeks after a violent eruption. The island, two miles in diameter and 365 feet high at its peak, rose above the sea in October, 1927. It is composed entirely of ash and other volcanic material. The crater is occupied by a boiling sulphurous lake that rises and falls with the tides.

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

The Origin of "Protoplasm"

Biology

D. F. FRASER-HARRIS in *Coloured Thinking* (Brentano's):

We cannot think nowadays of living things without thinking of the name for the living substance itself, protoplasm, or "the physical basis of life", as Huxley called it in his famous definition. The word protoplasm, which is the Greek for the "first formed thing", was first used by a Bohemian physiologist, J. E. Purkinje, in the year 1839 to describe the living substance composing animal embryos as in the egg, material not as yet even differentiated into the embryo. Soon biologists began to use "protoplasm" to describe living substance wherever found, whether in plant or animal, in the embryo, in the young or in the old.

No less a man than Goethe himself coined the word "morphology", which is the proper term for the science of the study of the form or structure of an animal. "Anatomy" is the more familiar term, but anatomy means merely a cutting up. As a term, "anatomy" has no reference to the

structures laid bare by the cutting up, whereas morphology means precisely a discourse about forms.

From visible forms we may pass to invisible, and at once think of "microbe." This is rather an interesting word, because, as it stands, it means in Greek a short life rather than a small living thing. It is, however, always in the latter sense that it is used, and in this sense it was coined by a friend of Pasteur, the French surgeon, Charles Sedillot, in 1878. The allied term "bacterium", now in such general use for one of the species of microbes, was first employed in its present meaning in 1865 by the well-known French physician, Dr. Casimir Davaine, the discoverer of the germ of anthrax.

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

A bronze tablet has been placed on the house at Oberlin, Ohio, where Charles M. Hall, a young college graduate, discovered the first commercial process for making aluminum, in 1886.