

## Irish and Armenians Kin?

*Ethnology*

Are Irishmen and Armenians racial cousins? They are, asserts Prof. N. Marr, member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and he links into the cousinship a third people, the Scythians, who were among the toughest fighters known to antiquity.

The Irish cousins of these Asiatic peoples do not include all of the present inhabitants of Ireland, Prof. Marr explains, but only those who are descended from the earliest known dwellers in the island.

The Russian ethnologist bases his theory on a study of words and their origins. "Ulut" was the tribe-name of these very early Irishmen, and "in tempore ulutorum", meaning "in the time of the uluts", is a phrase much favored by early Irish chroniclers to indicate the "furthest back" in Irish history. According to Prof. Erin Mac-

Neyll, student of Irish antiquities, St. Patrick began his missionary work in the Ulidian country, and the earliest known written Irish epic and historic literature is also Ulidian.

The base of the word "Ulidian" is "ulid" or "ulit". Prof. Marr believes that the name the Scythians called themselves, "Skolot", is a modification of these two syllables. And in the Caucasus he has found the word again, as in the district and town of Olti, known in antiquity as Ulti. The ancestors of the Armenians called themselves "Uti".

All the tribes that called themselves by this name in its various modifications must have had a fair degree of self-esteem, for the primitive root "ud", according to Prof. Marr, means "children of Heaven".

*Science News-Letter, August 24, 1929*

## Peace and Plenty Through Science

*General Science*

JOHN JOSEPH CARTY in an introduction to *Research Narratives, Vol. III* (Engineering Foundation).

The progress of scientific research in our country depends in the last analysis upon the support which it receives from the public. There is no lack of problems to be solved, all of which in one way or another affect the welfare of the nation, and there will be no lack of competent scientific investigators who will solve them if the necessary financial support is provided.

It is sometimes instructive to appraise the value of scientific research in pecuniary terms. For example, take the very great improvements in electric power and electric lighting which have been made by the industrial scientists during the past twenty-five years. Were it not for these improvements the bill which the public is now paying for electric current would be greater by more than *two billion dollars* a year. A similar story could be told of the results of scientific research conducted in the telephone industry and in the chemical and metallurgical industries.

But the higher values of scientific research must be stated in terms of human achievement, the elimination of poverty and disease, the advancement of learning, the growth of right living and good understanding among men. Scientific research is indispensable to the attainment of all of these ends.

According to the vision of Science, life must no longer be regarded as a struggle among men for a limited store where one man's gain or one nation's gain must be another's loss. Under the banner of scientific research we are asked to join with our fellow-men working together in controlling and utilizing the boundless forces of Nature. . . .

American business and commerce and industry and the American public should be urged to give to scientific research in our universities and elsewhere that support which it so greatly needs. "Science," said the great Pasteur, "is the soul of the prosperity of nations and the living source of all progress." For all of the benefits which it confers upon us, Science asks only that we provide its zealous workers with the opportunity to multiply their efforts in our behalf.

*Science News-Letter, August 24, 1929*

Cornell home economics experts point out that space may be saved when packing by putting rubbers on shoes.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is to make talking movies to demonstrate good and bad farming methods.

One of the fossil dragon flies, representing a prehistoric form of life, has a wing spread of more than two feet.

## Chemical Cantos

*Chemistry*

THOMAS STEPHENSON in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* (News Edition):

Sam put AgNO<sub>3</sub> in ma's perfumery, Thinking he would make a hit if he strengthened it a bit

Now each morning little Sammy goes to greet his Coal Black Mammy.

Johnny, feeling life a bore, drank some H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>;

So his father, an M.D., gave him CaCO<sub>3</sub>.

Johnny's neutralized, it's true, but he's full of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Maudie was delighted when she found a lump of KCN.

"Daddy's fond of sweets," said she, as she dropped it in his tea.

Father drank it; that is how Maud's mamma's a widow now.

Tommy, eager to explore, found some CuSO<sub>4</sub>.

"Nice rock candy," Tommy cried as he jammed a lump inside.

Doctor pumped him out, it's true, but Tommy still feels rather blue.

Bobbie, in his careless glee, mixed some I with NH<sub>3</sub>.

When the stuff was dry and thick, Bobbie hit it with a brick.

Bobbie's now in heaven they say; at least he seemed to go that way.

Auntie Jane gave Baby Sue a dose of HgCl<sub>2</sub>.

Baby's with the angels now, and Auntie Jane is wond'ring how A single atom of Cl can make such change in calomel.

*Science News-Letter, August 24, 1929*

## Monkeys Poor Geometrists

*Animal Psychology*

Monkeys can be taught the difference between the shapes of things, but they have a hard time distinguishing between pictures of the same objects. Dr. J. A. Bierens de Haan, a Dutch student of animal intelligence, reports that he was able to teach two monkeys to distinguish readily between cubes and cones. But when he showed them pictures of the cubes and cones, one of the two fell down completely, though the other, a monkey of different species, apparently made the right choice intelligently at least part of the time.

*Science News-Letter, August 24, 1929*

Hindu surgeons in early times used more than 100 different surgical instruments and performed difficult operations.