

spots. A sample artificially made in the laboratory by adding some pyrolusite to molten glass gave this same purplish streaked effect.

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ASTRONOMY

New Comet Discovered By Harvard Astronomer

A NEW COMET discovered by Dr. Fred L. Whipple of the Harvard College Observatory, is at present in the constellation Taurus, the Bull, a little south of the familiar compact group of stars, the Pleiades. These two constellations may be seen low in the east at about nine in the evening. The new comet is moving slowly in a southwest-erly direction.

Whipple comet has been spotted on a photograph taken with the 16-inch Metcalf telescope at the Oak Ridge, Mass., station of the Harvard Observatory on Oct. 15 and also on several plates taken Oct. 20. Prof. George Van Biesbroeck of Yerkes Observatory confirmed the discovery.

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ENDOCRINOLOGY

"Instinctive" Behavior Provoked by Human Extract

NEST-MAKING by female rabbits, long regarded as a typical example of purely "instinctive" activity, has been artificially provoked by injecting a commercial drug containing an active principle from the glands of pregnant women. Results of experiments producing this result are reported by Esther Bogen Tietz of Longview Hospital, Cincinnati, in *Science*.

A female rabbit always makes a nest out of her own fur just before her young are born. She plucks this fur from the lower side of her body, and cards and fluffs it with her claws. When the young are born, she covers them up with this loose fur, most carefully, presumably to keep them warm and to keep their tiny wet bodies from drying off too rapidly.

The whole thing is a procedure quite alien to anything a human mother does, yet the gland extract from expectant human mothers has sufficed to provoke this typically maternal reaction in non-pregnant rabbit does.

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ECONOMICS

Machine Age Benefits Upheld; Better Distribution Demanded

THE MACHINE to some in this modern world has become symbolic of the unhappy economic conditions in which the world finds itself. In some quarters there is a sincere, if mistaken, cry for the return to manpower and handicraft.

"To abandon the machine is unthinkable." This conclusion of an editorial in the *Engineering and Mining Journal* expresses the more informed opinion of today. Says the editorial:

"When, less than two years ago, technocracy and those who preached it had the world by the ears, and when, somewhat later, the idea seemed to have been dismissed in disgrace and ridicule from the public mind, few suspected that before twelve months had passed one of the leading industrial nations of the earth would be deliberately attempting to modify the structure of its economic and social system so that unemployment might be abolished the while that the benefits of mechanized industry were retained. The prophet-technocrats were indeed extravagant in their assertions; doubtless they greatly underestimated the time element involved in the changes of which they spoke, but there was a vital truth in their recognition of the fact that only disaster lay in refusing to note the inevitable effect of the machine upon society and to plan the needful readjustment. For it is society that must change and not that the machine must be abolished. As sane for Athens to have killed its slaves, thereby making impossible at that time the lofty achievement of the Periclean age, as for the United States or any other nation to abandon the machine and revert to hand labor. It is the machine that will ultimately make men free from drudgery and give them time to think. And when that day at last arrives it will be the dawning of a greater age than that of Pericles.

"The apparent dilemma in arguing that invention must not be retarded at the same time that one urges that employment must be increased is no dilemma. The two theses are not at all opposed, and this becomes apparent when at last one recognizes that the social structure and the habits of in-

dustry can and will be changed if a sufficient number of the people rouse themselves to demand it.

"To abandon the machine is unthinkable. Who that has become well accustomed to the typewriter will return to longhand? In considering this simple, personal operation the folly of the suggestion becomes apparent. It can be made equally plain, no matter what more complicated application of the machine is selected for analysis. And it is less foolish only in degree to advocate the partial scrapping of equipment and the throttling of invention. The machine is a boon, mankind's servant. But mankind must see to it that the production and benefits of the machine are properly distributed."

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ZOOLOGY

Buffalo Meat Again To Cheer Indians

SURPLUS buffalo from Yellowstone Park again will be distributed to nearby Indian reservations, according to Supt. Roger W. Toll. The purpose is twofold—to augment the Indians' food supply, and to bring back to them a bit of the glamour of the past when buffalo roamed the range in almost countless numbers and they ate bison meat every day.

Authority for the disposition of surplus buffalo from the Yellowstone was granted by Congress when it was found that these animals, at one time almost extinct, were increasing at such a rate that it was necessary to determine the maximum number the park range would support and keep the herd down to that number. For the past decade at least the effort has been to keep the buffalo to a maximum of 1,000 head.

This year, owing to poor range conditions, the short hay crop at the buffalo range, and a shortage of funds with which to furnish enough additional hay to feed 1,000 of these great animals, it has been decided to reduce the herd to 900.

Between 200 and 235 buffalo will be available for disposal.

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