

Celestial Time Table for September

Times are given in Eastern Standard. Subtract one hour for Central Standard, two hours for Mountain Standard, and three for Pacific Standard. Add one hour for the corresponding Daylight Saving time.

Sunday, Sept. 1, 11:15 p.m., new moon. **Tuesday, Sept. 3,** 1:00 a.m., moon nearest, 223,200 miles from earth. **Wednesday, Sept. 4,** 3:00 p.m., Jupiter changes direction, starts westerly motion. **Thursday, Sept. 5,** 8:00 a.m., Venus farthest west of sun. **Sunday, Sept. 8,** 2:32 p.m., moon in first quarter. **Monday, Sept. 16,** 9:41 a.m., full moon. **Wednesday, Sept. 18,** 3:00 a.m., moon farthest, 252,400 miles from earth. **Friday, Sept. 20,** 4:26 p.m., moon passes Saturn; 5:38 p.m., moon passes Jupiter. **Sunday, Sept. 22,** 11:46 p.m., sun crosses equator, autumn commences. **Tuesday, Sept. 24,** 12:47 p.m., moon in last quarter. **Saturday, Sept. 28,** 5:07 a.m., moon passes Venus.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Noted Materialist States Articles of His Faith

CONFESSIONS of faith, to use a churchly phrase, may be of greater interest in disordered, dangerous days than in less troubled times. There may be more silent thinking about the destination of the human race and individuals.

One chapter of J. B. S. Haldane's new book, *Adventures of a Biologist*, is such a statement of personal philosophy. This collection of essays is good serious summer relief reading, by the way. Prof. Haldane, one of the most colorful figures in British science, tells why he is a materialist and why he wants to make others materialists.

When he says he is a materialist he means that he believes in the following statements:

1. Events occur which are not perceived by any mind.

2. There were unperceived events before there were any minds.

And he also believes, although not as necessary logical deduction from the former two, that:

3. When a man has died he is dead. When Prof. Haldane says "I believe" he does not mean it in the sense in which a fervent Christian uses it concerning the Virgin Mary. He means it in the ordinary sense in which, for example, he believes that dinner will be waiting for him when he goes home. He acts, and proposes to act, on the basis that materialism is true. Nevertheless he is prepared to consider evidence to the contrary and he does not get shocked or angry if someone criticizes or doubts the truth of materialism.

Materialistic thinking in the past has been revolutionary in its effects, Prof. Haldane observes. It has built up natural science and undermined religion. Our current ideas about society, which Prof. Haldane calls, "irrational traditions which stifle progress in the interests of a small minority," are being transformed by materialistic thinking about history as our ancestors' ideas were transformed by materialistic thinking about nature. He has no doubt but that the consequence will be revolutionary, as it was in the past.

Since our present society is working very badly, Prof. Haldane wants a rational society to come out of our present troubles.

The immediate future is going to be uncomfortable enough, whatever happens, Prof. Haldane wrote, even before the present tense days in England. His faith is a scientific materialism and he seeks converts because he believes the world will be a better place in which to live when dominated by scientific materialism.

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MEDICINE

Fewer Foreign Medical Journals Reaching U. S.

BLOCKADE, and the absorption of medical scientists into military occupations, are seriously cutting down the number of foreign medical publications received in the United States, it is noted in the issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for Aug. 24. This of course has the adverse effect of depriving American physicians and surgeons of news of newest transatlantic developments in their field. Presumably their colleagues overseas are suffering similarly through lack of American medical journals.

A check-up has been made in the library of the American Medical Association and in the publication office of the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*. The last big shipment of Continental medical journals was received on May 27. Since that date only ten stray copies have come in, out of a list of some 1400 different periodicals on the Association's library subscription list. No Austrian or Italian publications have been received since June, and Polish and Czechoslovakian journals stopped coming many months ago.

British publications continue to arrive, though usually somewhat delayed.

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PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

Growth-Promoting Substance Sprouts Roots on Leaf Tips

A POSSIBLE new growth-promoting substance, that causes roots to sprout from begonia leaf tips instead of from their bases, is suggested by the result of researches conducted at Liege, Belgium, before the Nazi invasion. Published results, by Dr. P. C. Prevot, have been received in London.

Dr. Prevot had been experimenting

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with the well-known ability of begonia leaves to produce roots from their bases, if set in moist soil or sand. Without warning, some of his leaves began to produce roots from their tips instead.

The experimenter checked back to find what new factor had been introduced into his set-up. The only thing he could

discover was that his gardener had begun watering the plants from which some of the leaves were cut with a liquid extract of pigeon manure. Direct tests with the extract demonstrated that the "unorthodox" root-stimulating substance, whatever it may be, was contained in the liquid fertilizer.

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ern hemisphere. Probably it can be transmitted by those who are only slightly ill or harboring the virus while well. The complete stoppage of all travel from boat, airplane or any other means would be necessary for any effective barrier and this is impracticable.

Whether the epidemic will reach the United States and whether it will become serious in proportions cannot now be predicted. The investigators are anxious that the public shall not become alarmed at any such prospect.

If influenza does strike the United States the epidemic is not expected to be on the order of the famous one of 1918. About 3% of the people of Puerto Rico were ill in the present outbreak but only about a third of one per cent. of those taken ill died.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

First 'Flu Vaccine Tests Being Made in Puerto Rico

Disease Spreads to Other Islands in West Indies; Future Course of Its Spread Difficult to Predict

FIRST extensive human trials of a vaccine against influenza developed in the Rockefeller Foundation's International Health Division laboratories are being conducted in Puerto Rico during the epidemic now subsiding there.

Volunteers are being given the injections which it is hoped will protect against the disease. Made from the virus grown upon chick embryos, the vaccine is administered by injecting under the skin.

The extensive epidemic of influenza in Puerto Rico presented the first real opportunity of testing the Rockefeller vaccine.

Any doubt that the Puerto Rico outbreak is real influenza was dissipated when field investigations demonstrated that the virus of this outbreak is the same as that identified by the group of British scientists who first isolated the influenza virus: Drs. W. Smith, C. H. Andrewes and P. P. Laidlaw.

An intensive investigational attack is being made upon the Puerto Rico outbreak by the Rockefeller scientists, cooperating with other investigators. Dr. Edwin H. Lennette and Dr. E. R. Richard went from the Rockefeller International Health Board's laboratories in New York to the scene of the outbreak. There they are working closely with Dr. John W. Oliphant of the U. S. Public Health Service, who was sent from Washington.

Dr. P. J. Crawford and Dr. H. P. Carr, Rockefeller scientists regularly stationed at Havana, are also working on the influenza situation in the West Indies.

In the New York laboratories of the International Health Board located in

the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Dr. F. L. Horsfall, Jr., is carrying on laboratory researches on material sent from Puerto Rico and continuing with his colleagues the intensive investigation of the disease.

Any predictions about the further course of the epidemic now subsiding in Puerto Rico are hazardous. But authorities are apprehensive that the disease may spread to the mainland of the United States.

The epidemic is reported to have reached St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, on July 19, Cuba on Aug. 2, and the Dominican Republic on Aug. 7. Since medical science is very much in the dark about just how the disease is spread, no effective steps can be taken to prevent its transmission to other parts of the west-

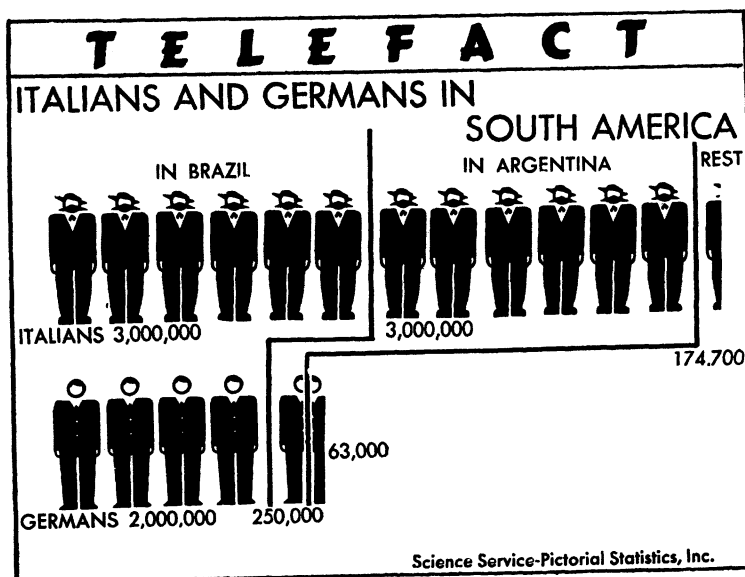
ENGINEERING

Color and Light Fluid In New Fountain's Beauty

See Front Cover

COLOR and light assume myriad beautiful fluid forms in the new "Fountain of Light" recently installed at Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio, by the General Electric Company. Resembling lighted fountains which have excited admiration of thousands at the New York and San Francisco World's Fairs, the new display pours lights totaling 18,000 watts into jets of water lifted into the air by a motor-driven pump consuming 36,650 watts. Colors shift and play through a gamut of blue, green, amber and white.

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