

Health Levels of Evolution

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and at the same time by the inability of the animals to recover from injury and repair breakages as quickly and completely as their ancestors in the palmier days of the species. After that, extinction.

Dr. Fenton states that in all his series he has found only indications of a straight-through, determinate course of evolution. There is no indication that the effects were brought about by changes in environment, and there is no sign of the operation of natural selection considered by Darwin to be necessary in bringing about evolutionary changes.

Science News Letter, February 14, 1931

Manganese was much in demand in the days of Egyptian civilization.

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ASTRONOMY

Many Sunspots Reported By Mt. Wilson Astronomers

SUNSPOTS decorate the sun in large numbers, reports to Science Service from the Mt. Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, Calif., reveal.

Thursday, Feb. 26, there were 32 spots arranged in seven groups, while the day before there were 40 spots in six groups.

Visitors to the National Academy of Sciences building in Washington were able to see many small spots spread over the image of the sun as projected within the rotunda of that building.

On the first day of February the sun was entirely free from disturbances although usually during the past few months there have been a few spots reported by the Mt. Wilson Observatory.

The sun rotates on an axis from west to east just like the earth. The gigantic and complex disturbances in the outer

layers of the sun which cause the spots therefore seem to pass across the face of the sun, sometimes reappearing some 13 days later after having travelled around on the other side.

Sunspots occur in cycles with a maximum number appearing every eleven years or so. As the last maximum occurred in 1928 or 1929, it is now about half way between a maximum and minimum. By 1934 the sun's activity should be quiescent.

The effect of sunspots upon the earth has been one of the most active questions in astronomy for many years. There seems to be good evidence that spots, or the solar conditions causing them, in some way affect radio reception, magnetic disturbances, and that sometimes they put telegraphic lines out of commission by setting up earth currents.

Some spots are very large and visible to the unaided eye when the sun is viewed through heavily smoked glass. Others are very small, the smallest detectable being about 300 miles across. Some of the largest have measured 60,000 miles across. They may last for several months or they may disappear in a few hours.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1931

ASTRONOMY

Astronomy Medal Awarded To Universe Maker

ONE of the universe makers of today, Dr. Willem de Sitter, director of the Observatory at Leiden, Holland, has been awarded the 1931 Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

This honor is conferred for "distinguished services to astronomy." Dr. de Sitter's concept of the universe has received wide discussion among astronomers and philosophers. He conceives that space would have curvature even if it were totally devoid of matter, whereas Prof. Einstein's original theory of relativity supposed the presence of matter to be the only cause of the bending of space.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1931

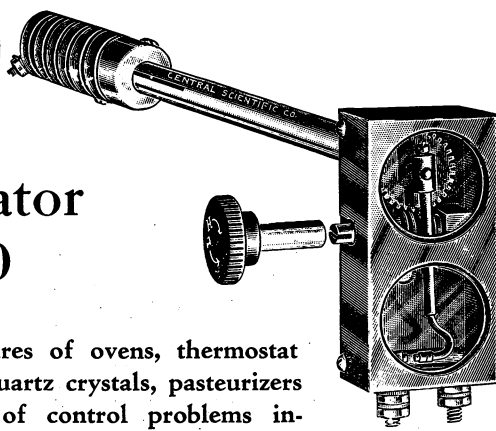
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