

ASTRONOMY

Eros Spins Nearly Five Times as Fast as Earth

EROS, the tabloid planet that has recently been paying one of its rare neighborly visits to the earth, spins nearly five times as fast as our planet. The fraction of .2195942 days, corresponding to 5 hours, 16 minutes and 12.94 seconds, represents the most accurate determination of its speed of rotation. This figure has just been announced by Prof. Leon Campbell, of the Harvard College Observatory.

Prof. Campbell's study was based on a long series of measurements of the brightness of Eros. The earliest observation he used was made in 1898, at the time of the first close approach of the planet after its discovery. The latest observation was one that he made himself on January 26 this year.

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ZOOLOGY

Prince Lion-Cub Speaks A Word for Himself

See Front Cover

MILK-TEETH are all he has as yet, and most of his active hours are spent in kittenish play; but let something happen to displease him, and for a moment the lion cub gives a hint of the royal terror that will clothe him when he reaches maturity. The protesting youngster pictured on the cover of this issue of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER was photographed by Hedda Walther for Paul Eipper's book, "Animal Children. Copyright, 1930, by the Viking Press, Inc., New York. Reproduced by permission.

Science News Letter, March 28, 1931

ARCHAEOLOGY

Children's Graves Tell Story of Jointed Doll

DOLLS with real hair were treasured by children of ancient Egypt. Hair was fastened on to the doll's head with little wooden pegs, Dr. Kate McK. Elderkin, of Princeton, explains in a report tracing the ancient history of jointed dolls, in the *American Journal of Archaeology*.

Dr. Elderkin found available for her study a varied assortment of jointed dolls belonging to children of Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Some of these are in

existence in museums today because of the rather pathetic old, old custom of burying a doll in the grave of a child who had loved it. Other dolls have been found in the ruins of temples. According to Greek custom, girls who were about to be married took their dolls and doll clothes to the temple to dedicate them to Artemis or some other protecting goddess.

The oldest jointed dolls known are made of pottery and of wood and are from Egypt, Dr. Elderkin states. These date from 3000 B. C. to 2000 B. C. They are adult feminine types, as was characteristic of dolls throughout antiquity.

The oldest Egyptian dolls had the arms jointed only. Centuries later, children of Greece had dolls with legs as well as arms jointed. Dolls from about the fourth century were painted white or flesh colored. The hair, dressed in a knob on top of the head, was painted red or yellow. One of these dolls still has blue eyes.

The world's oldest dolls are not very large. The largest studied by Dr. Elderkin is a Roman doll a foot tall. This wooden lady, beautifully modeled, is dated by its fashionable hair arrangement, copied after the style of hair-dressing worn by Faustina the Elder.

Science News Letter, March 28, 1931

PSYCHOLOGY

Girl Babies' Memories No Better Than Boys'

IF GIRLS can remember things better than boys, a superiority traditionally claimed for them, they must develop this ability some time after they are one year old. Recent researches by Prof. Chauncey N. Allen of Dartmouth College indicate that there is no sex superiority in memory in one-year-old babies.

Prof. Allen's work was done while he was on leave, at Columbia University. He tried out a considerable number of babies, letting them see him put away some object that they wanted. Then they were prevented from going after it immediately, but after the lapse of a brief time interval were turned loose.

He found that babies, both boy and girl, could remember where the lost plaything was for about half a minute. After that, they had either forgotten where it was, or lost interest in the matter. And the girls remembered no longer, on the average, than did the boys.

Science News Letter, March 28, 1931

IN SCIENCE

ORNITHOLOGY

"Eternal Triangle" Disrupts Stork Family

EVEN STORKS, traditional dispensers of the most domestic of all domestic matters, seem to be "going modern." A triangular tragedy involving a stork family is the story coming in from a village in the eastern part of Brandenburg, in Germany.

For many years the storks' nest stood upon a barn, occupied by the same pair, the male bird being easily identifiable because of a deformity of his left leg.

Last spring, while the female stork was sitting on her eggs, a strange stork appeared on a neighboring roof and was immediately attacked by the old male. The younger bird was victorious, however, and drove the older one off, immediately thereafter taking up with the female.

On the third of May, the five eggs lay broken upon the ground. On May 30 the new pair were again in possession of five new eggs. Two of these eggs they threw out of the nest.

The modernized "birth-controlling" storks raised three young birds, however, which grew up and departed, shortly after their parents, on the fall migration early in September.

Science News Letter, March 28, 1931

OCEANOGRAPHY

Drifting Bottle Crosses the Pacific

SIX THOUSAND six hundred miles, almost all the way across the mid-Pacific, is the record of a drifting bottle recently picked up among the Marshall Islands and reported to the U. S. Hydrographic Office. The paper within the bottle stated that it had been set adrift on June 16, 1927, by Capt. H. Ingalls of the American steamer *Solana*, in latitude 11 degrees 59 minutes north, longitude 91 degrees 16 minutes west. This position is off the southern coast of Central America. When found, the bottle was just a little north of the equator and in longitude 173 degrees 29 minutes east.

Science News Letter, March 28, 1931

E FIELDS

GEOLOGY—BOTANY

Plant Growth Tells Of Rocks Beneath

HOW TREE and shrub associations over a countryside may be used to make a rapid survey of the kind of rocks that lie beneath, is told by Dr. Robert H. Cuyler of the University of Texas, in a report to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Dr. Cuyler found, in a study of various geological formations in Texas, that each type of rock formation had a distinctive type of vegetation growing on it. One formation supported woods in which a species of oak predominated, another was covered with a juniper forest, a third was marked by mesquite thickets. Two maps of a selected region, one showing only the vegetation and the other only the rock formations, are found to be divided up into areas that correspond very closely in size and shape.

Dr. Cuyler believes that with the use of aircraft it will be possible to make very rapid geological reconnaissances of new territories, "seeing" the rocks beneath the soil without so much as sticking in a spade, merely by recognizing the types of vegetation associated with them.

Science News Letter, March 28, 1931

ARCHAEOLOGY

Ruins May Be City Where Noah Built the Ark

THE ANCIENT Sumerian city Shurruk, believed to be the place where the Ark of Biblical fame was built, is being excavated by an expedition from the University of Pennsylvania Museum, it has been stated in Philadelphia. The Iraq Department of Antiquities has granted permission for the excavations, and work has been started.

The ruins of the city are in the midst of a desert about a hundred miles from Ur, where traces of a great flood were found. Dr. Erich Schmidt is directing the excavations.

"It is generally accepted that the Bib-

lical account of the deluge is derived from the Babylonian story of the flood that makes up part of the Gilgamesh Epic," explained Horace H. F. Jayne, director of the University Museum.

"The texts generally speak of five cities that existed before the deluge, and of these the City of Shurruk was the native town of Uta-Naphistim, the Biblical counterpart of Noah. Here, according to accounts, the ark was built.

"In the early days of the present century the German archaeologist Koldey made trial excavations at Fara. Inscriptions discovered there led to the identification of modern Fara as the ancient city of Shurruk. It is, therefore, one of the most interesting cities in Mesopotamia and one that may easily yield historical and artistic data comparable to that already unearthed at Ur and Kish."

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ZOOLOGY

Mule Deer Show More Sense Than Whitetail Cousins

THE HARDINESS and self-reliance of the mule or blacktail deer has again been demonstrated in Glacier National Park. Feeding grounds maintained at the Lake McDonald Ranger Station, on the west side of the park, are often visited by the mule deer, but, having obtained salt, they ignore the proffered hay and return to the higher country to forage for themselves. The whitetail deer, however, accept free hand-outs at the feeding grounds throughout the winter.

According to J. Ross Eakin, until recently superintendent of Glacier National Park, none of this high country is natural winter range for the deer. With the encroachment of ranches and settlements into their natural valley feeding grounds, however, the deer were forced to take to the higher country, and now they find refuge in the park.

Under these conditions the mule deer developed their natural resourcefulness and began foraging for themselves, even in cold weather. The whitetail, on the other hand, are less sturdy, and so must be helped throughout severe winters. It is interesting to note that during a hard winter, the mule deer going on his own appears in much better condition than the whitetail which has joined the bread—or hay—line at the feeding grounds.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Tomb of Canadian Indians In Museum at Ottawa

AN INDIAN tomb, probably the last of its kind that will ever be found in the Dominion of Canada, has been received at the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa. The wooden sepulcher was discovered on the shore of the Fraser river, near Vancouver, British Columbia, and was the work of some member of the Musqueam tribe. Only about fifty members of the tribe are now living.

Harlan I. Smith, Dominion archaeologist who discovered the tomb, believes that it contained two bodies, probably of a chief of high rank and his wife. The relic is an elaborately carved wooden box mounted on a boat-like platform about eight feet long. The bones found in the box were removed and interred before the sepulcher itself was sent here.

The most striking decoration on the box is the carving of four small animals on one side. These are pronounced "skumudgeons" or mythical sea otters. It is supposed that the skumudgeon was associated with the Indian brave who owned the tomb, perhaps acting as his guiding spirit during his lifetime.

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CHEMISTRY

"Chemist Shops" Don't Want To Be "Drug Stores"

THE British "chemist," whose counterpart in most countries is known as an apothecary, druggist, or pharmacist, may be debarred from using his present title if moves by the Institute of Chemistry achieve their end. Scientific chemists who may in all probability know nothing, or but little, of drugs and pharmacy, have always objected to their title being assumed by the licensed retailer of poisons and drugs, and the Institute has prepared a draft petition to the King praying for its members alone to be known as "Chartered Chemists."

However, since not all chemists are members of the Institute, and as it is reported that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society takes "strong exception to the terms in which the petition is drafted," it seems more than likely that the British public will have no need yet awhile to alter its custom of referring to the "chemist's shop" when it means the drug store.

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