

are there, and which afforded an inexhaustible water supply in a land which is conspicuous for the absence of surface or flowing water. It is not too much to say that the presence of two such wells at one place pre-determined under primitive conditions that a large center of population should one day grow up around them.

One of these wells was used as a source for the water-supply of the city; the other as a place of sacrifice wherein the most beautiful maidens of the tribe were hurled in times of great drought as sacrifices to the offended rain deities. Today the vast courts and colonnades, the lofty pyramids and spacious palaces, the temples and terraces, are silent; a great forest has overgrown them and overthrown them.

It is in these remote solitudes, that the ringing sound of the ax, pick and shovel of the excavator will soon be heard, and the intensive study of this former metropolis of ancient America will be commenced.

CHICAGO MUSEUM DIGS NEAR SITE OF BABYLON

Important information regarding the cradle of civilization in Mesopotamia is expected by the Field Museum of Natural History from the joint expedition of the Museum and Oxford University, now at work excavating the ancient capital of Sumer and Akkad, eight miles east of the site of the city of Babylon. The work is in charge of Dr. Stephen Langdon of Oxford.

This expedition is only one of four now in the field, Dr. D. C. Davies, director of the Museum, announced today. E.S. Riggs and members of the paleontological expedition are looking for fossils in Argentina, while C.C. Sanborn is in Chile, collecting birds and mammals. Edmund Heller, who was one of the leading members of the Roosevelt expedition to Africa in 1909, is again in that country heading a party in search of game animals near Lake Tanganyika. W.J. Morden is collecting game animals in southern Asia and a party under H.B. Conover is collecting specimens of game birds in Alaska.

BALLOON TORN FROM GROUND CARRIES SCIENTIST INTO STORM

The U.S. Weather Bureau's storm sleuth extra-ordinary, Dr. C.L. Meisinger, ended his fifth thrilling voyage from Scott Field, Illinois, April 29, at ten o'clock at night when rain forced down his balloon three miles southwest of Hartsburg, Missouri, and a quarter of a mile from the Missouri River.

Dr. Meisinger and his pilot, Lieut. James T. Nealy of the U.S. Army, left Scott Field suddenly when a gust of wind tore their balloon from the hands of assistants on the ground and carried it bouncing across the field for a quarter of a mile before it started up.

The balloon took off in a south wind at 2:55 p.m. This changed to south-east, and east as an altitude of between four and five thousand feet was reached. Carried westward over Missouri, in the balloonists encountered snow and rain. The rain finally forced down the big gas bag which landed safely in the dark at 10. p.m. in a northwest wind.

Dr. Meisinger spent the rest of the night asleep in the basket of his balloon three miles from town.

METEOROLOGISTS FAVOR REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

Reform of the calendar, with a year to consist of 13 months of four weeks each with one "extra" day, was advocated by a resolution passed by the American Meteorological Society in recent session here. The change was urged by Dr. C.F. Marvin, chief of the U.S. Weather Bureau, on the ground that it would simplify the collection and study of weather data.

Dr. Marvin said the whole question of the reform of the calendar was before a special committee of the League of Nations, and the resolution approved by the meeting directed the secretary of the society to notify the League committee of the society's action. Dr. Marvin added that January 1, 1928 had been tentatively chosen as the most favorable time for a number of years to come on which to start the new calendar, since that year begins on Sunday.

By the proposed calendar, every month would be just four weeks long, the same day of every month would always fall on the same day of the week, and religious and secular days such as Easter and Election Day would always come on the same day of the year. A committee on which all the great religions of the western world are represented is now conferring with the League of Nations committee on this subject.

PREDICTING THE MOVEMENTS OF ELECTRONS

By Dr. Edwin E. Slosson.

The essence of science is prophecy. Until a student of nature can tell what is going to happen beforehand his knowledge is of uncertain validity and little value.

The science of astronomy had its birth twenty-five hundred years ago when the Greek philosopher, Thales, predicted the coming of an eclipse of the sun.

Today a new science is being born, quite as marvellous as astronomy and much more important to the world. It may indeed be called "the astronomy of the atom", since it deals with the orbits of the electrons in their revolution about the central nucleus. This reminds us of the arrangement of the solar system with the positively charged nucleus standing for the sun in the center and the corpuscles of negative electricity revolving around it. But there is this important difference. The solar system is stable and the planets pursue almost exactly the same course, century after century, fortunately for us who are living on one of them. It would be decidedly disconcerting to us, of, for instance, Mars should be carried off by a comet, making the grand tour of the universe, and Saturn should suddenly drop into its place. Or if our earth should be detached from the sun and swept off through space and be drawn into the sphere of influence of some other star like Sirius, which we might not like so well as our own sun. Yet that sort of thing happens frequently with the electronic planets