

is, Rafe, but the ordinary man in the street calls it Ralph.

Not many years ago it was the fashion of what may be called "the tweedy-gentry of England" to clip the "g", that is to say hunting, shooting and fishing, became huntin' (often 'untin') fishin', and shootin'. Ridicule has done a great deal towards killing this fashion.

The average Englishman says—girl, as it is spelt. The lower classes say—gurl, but the right people, say "gel" or a mixture of gel and gal, very difficult to pronounce.

From time to time these pronunciation "signs" undergo a change.

Many years ago "the best people" said "honour", that is sounding the "h", whereas now it is 'onour, but at that time hospital was pronounced 'ospital, dropping the "h". There can have been no reason for this, except that it was a deliberate trap.

As the father once said to his small son—"You may have Haddock and Ham at school, but in this 'ouse you 'ave 'ad-dock, and 'am".

Quite recently, that is to say, within the past 15 years, it has become the fashion to pronounce "valet" as an English word, and not as a French, also in restaurant, the first "t" is now sounded by—"the best people."

Science News Letter, March 18, 1939

ASTRONOMY

Foreign Astronomers To Lecture at Harvard

OUTSTANDING foreign astronomers will join the visiting faculty of Harvard during the coming summer for the 1939 Harvard Summer Conferences on Astronomy.

Courses in stellar astronomy and seminars on celestial mechanics, star structure and other special problems will be given from July 5 to Aug. 15.

The following will be visiting lecturers during the sessions: Dr. Jan Oort, University Observatory, Leiden; Dr. Freeman D. Miller, Denison University, Granville, Ohio; Dr. Svein Rosseland, Institute of Theoretical Astrophysics, Oslo; Dr. Zdenek Kopal, University of Prague; Dr. Richard A. Prager, Berlin; Dr. E. F. Freundlich, Prague.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1939

American nurses, says the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, have made quite a name for themselves in such countries as Cuba, Chile, Panama, and Colombia where they have helped organize hospital and public health services.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Says Lost Viking Found America On Detour

LEIF ERICSSON sailed to America on a tip from a daring young Norseman who got there first. At least, so it appears from studies reported by a Norwegian archaeologist, Prof. A. W. Brogger of the University of Oslo.

How Leif Ericsson happened to sail on that voyage which landed him in Vineland, somewhere in America, has been almost as mysterious as the exact location of Vineland itself. It has been said that Leif was doing missionary duty, carrying Christianity to Greenland at request of King Olaf of Norway when he lost his way and discovered the land of the vine. But Prof. Brogger is convinced that Ericsson sailed to America deliberately, not by chance.

His conclusions bring into prominence a headstrong young Viking named Herjulfsson, who technically may be the discoverer of America.

The story is that when Leif Ericsson's father, Eric the Red, had sailed from Ice-

land to establish the first Norse colony in Greenland, in the tenth century, he had been followed by this young Herjulfsson, who got lost on the way and made a landfall in a strange country—Labrador. Herjulfsson got lost because he had insisted on navigating his own ship, despite inexperience. A hard gale and fog drove his ship away from the course, and the detour took him, so Prof. Brogger figures, to Battle Harbor, Labrador, thence back to Baffin's Land and to Greenland.

When Eric the Red heard of it, he dispatched his son Leif to investigate the strange land. The expedition, concludes Prof. Brogger, was a sound and well-prepared venture, conducted by 35 men set to repeat deliberately Herjulfsson's mistake. He says they reached Baffin's Land and named it Helluland; continued to Labrador and called it Markland; and then went farther than Herjulfsson to discover luxuriant Vineland.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1939

Advance Announcement

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