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ARIA gUILDS BIG AIRSHIP
${ }^{10}$ CARRY BATTLE PLANES

Washington. - The first large-sized semi-rigid helium airship of all ferican design is now being constructed at Akron, Ohio.

This rill also be the first American floating aerial base and airplane-carrier.
This ship will be used experimentally to develop the lighter-than-air machine ${ }^{4} 8$ a fuel saving, long distance carrier and mother ship to airplanes that will take if from and attach themselves to it in the air, according to Major P. E. Van Nosgrand, in charge of the balloon section, United States Army Air Service here.

The new craft was planned by the Army Aeronautical engineers of MicCook Field, dayton, Ohio, in connection with the aeronautical department of the Goodyear Tiro and Rubber Company which is building the ship.

The new craft will have a capacity of from 700,000 to 750,000 cubic feet of gas Not 1 ill be something less than 400 feet long and will be propelled by four 12 cylin${ }^{\text {for }}$ Liberty motors able to drive the airship at the rate of 70 miles an hour. It will b
able to carry two or three airplanes, but experiments will be begun with the use 4
one plane of small-type which will be carried underneath the ship and launched from that po
position. By merely throttling down ; the speed of the plane, it will be able is il underneath and hook on to the mother ship. Airships large enough to carry from live to fifty planes may be developed as a result of these experiments.
"Leaving and returning during flight is a simple matter," Major Van Nostrand "Hims. "As long as the airplane stays in its natural element there is little chance "trouble. It will furnish a safer method than that of the hydroplane lighting on ${ }^{10} 1$ ing ships around which there are frequently treacherous air currents and will be
much superior to present ground landings.
The new airship is especially designed for helium gas which has about eight per cent less lifting power than flammable hydrogen heretofore used. On account of this the bag must have a larger capacity to raise the same amo unt of dead weight.

Helium gas is also too scarce and valuable to be released to regulate the altitude of the craft. In the ordinary hydrogen balloon and airship when it is desired to go higher ballast is thrown out and when necessary to descend gas is let out. In the new helium aircraft, the necessity of valving or throwing out ballast is partly compensated for by coaling or heating the helium and thus causing it to contract or expand as desired.

Using the gasoline fuel during a long trip would ordinarily lighten the ship and cause it to rise. But loss of weight in fuel is compensated for by collecting the Fater in the exhaust gases formed by the hydrogen in the gasoline combining with the oxygen of the air in the engines. For one hundred pounds of gasoline used there is about 100 pounds of water produced and the reight approximately equalized.

SCIENT ISTS ON MEXICAN SUB-CHASER
HoNT SCARCE PACIFIC SEALS

San Diego.

- The Mexican sub-chaser "Tecate" has left here carrying Ahorican scientists equippod with scientifio apparatus and motion picture cameras to hunt dom the facts in regard to the herds of the almost extinct southern fur seal and southern sea otters on the islands off the west coast of Lower California. It is hoped that international cooperation between the United States and Mexico for the protection of these seals may result from the work of the expedition, says Dr. Bartor R. Evermann, chairman of the committee on Pacific Narine Life of the Anerican Association for the Advancement of Science.

Records show that in the years 1808 to 1811 more than 203,000 fur seals were 'aken on the Farallone Islands besides thousands from other islands in these waters. Pefore 1806 more 22,000 sea otters had been taken from this same region. These ${ }^{\text {BPecies are }}$ now believed to be nearly extinct, but recent reports indicate that some
remands may still remain.
The scientists of this expedition will explore the islands off the Lower Cali${ }^{\text {ionia coast thoroughly. Motion pictures will be made of birds, snakes, mammals, and }}$ insects as well as of the seals. Skulls and fossils will be collected of the animals Which have passed beyond the point of posing even for a slow-motion movie. As these islands have been but little explored, it is thought likely that many new species $\pi i 21$ be discovered.

The expedition is under the direction of Senor Torreon of the National Museum of mexico and the Mexican government has detailed the submarine chaser to carry the exParers. The American organization conducting the work is the Committee on Conserve${ }^{\text {tron }}$ of Marine Life of the Pacific of the Pacific Division of the American Associaion for the Advancement of Science, and the expedition is being sent out under the Patronage of the National Geographic Society with which is associated the Scrips Institution of Biological Research, the California Academy of Sciences and the San ${ }^{\text {Diego Society of Natural History. Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, secretary of the committee, }}$ $i_{8}$ in charge.

RADIO NETS OF THE EEK
GOVeRNMENT TO SUPERVISE
MID SET TESTS.

Washington.
Retailers of radio receiving sets have arranged for a New electrical testing laboratory to test the apparatus they sell under the super"sion and following the testing rules laid down by the radio experts of the Bureau "Standards of the Department of Commerce.

The rapid growth of the demand for radio apparatus caused many dry goods stores "lied to handing such material to sell it, but they have had much difficulty in de"ding whether the sets offered by manufacturers are of poor or good quality.

The tests outlined include: Investigation as to the material and workmanship, "mechanical and electrical design, simplicity of adjustment, ruggedness, sensi"sty, sharpness of tuning, wave length range and faithfulness of reproduction in
radio telephone reception. The cormitteo of the National Retail Dry Goods Associatio arranging for the tests, has suggested that from a comercial standpoint it would be of assistance to their members if responsible manufacturers would plainly mark their equipment, indicating the receiving radius of each instrunent under every atmospheric condition. Owing to the large number of factors which ent or into the determination of the range over which signals can be recoived with a given set, this is a very difficult problem, impossible to solve at the present $t$ ime by any brief statement or mark. Strength of signals required by a receiving operator, height and location of receiving antenna, power of transmitting station, its location with respect to other stations capable of causing interference as well as the sensitivity of the particular recoiving set must all be considered.

## Transconm inental daylight RELAYS UNSUCCESSFUL

Hart ford, Conn. Aorican Radio Relay League indicate that the attempts at relay
the continent in daylight on July 2, 4 and 9 vere unsuccessful.

On all three days the message started from the west coast did not succeed in Sotting across the Rockies on account of static and the long relays necessary. The ${ }^{\text {Oastorn first message left a Massachusetts station and got as far as Atlantic City, }}$ the second reached Clarendon, Va., while the third day's trial was last heard from in upper New York City.
"Thile these test messages went no great distances, yet the fact that a few ${ }^{\mathrm{rear}} \mathrm{r}_{\mathrm{s}}$ ago it would have been difficult to send them over more than 25 to 50 miles at Tho riost on account of the relatively poor efficiency of the transmitters then, in "icates in some measure the advance of amateur radio," says an official of the League. "On the first two days, static conditions were very bad, thunderstorms being reported itho afternoon, which make it almost impossible to transmit for any distance."

## SCIENCE AND ORGANDY BANISH <br> INK FROM FINGER-PRINTING

Washington. It does not matter if criminals have their fingers stained "ith ink when being finger-printed, but Miss Postal Saving Dopositor, dressed up in White organdy, objects decidely. Nevertheless, she and all the other thousands of thrifty people who prefer Uncle Sam's post office department banks will have to use their finger-prints every time they draw money. This is the official decision following postal robberies.

But, thanks to science, ink stained fingers now have no chance of becoming a badge of saving. Bureau of Standards experts have developed a method that rescues Miss Depositor's dress from ink stains and the Post Office Department from a large expenditure of money.

The dainty fingers of the depositor are first coated by pressing them on a shoet of heavy paper impregnated with mineral oil. An invisible impression of the thumb is made on the necessary documents, and it is "developed" and made visible in the same way that the police bring out the lines of involuntary finger prints whon they are solving a crime mystery. The oil print is dusted with lampblack which makes it visible, and the mark is preserved by spraying with a dilute solution of shellac, Just as an artist fixes his charcoal drawing.

An expensive camel's hair brush has been used to dust on the lampblack, but the ${ }^{8}$ cientists economically suggested the use of a small ball of absorbent cotton coated With larupblack or gas black and tied up in a cover of organdy, the same matorial as Uiss Dopositor's dress, which they have protected from ink. UILLIONS WASTED BY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT
timber Seattle, Wash.
1 Investment value of $\$ 400,000,000$ in of er and land in western Washington can only be preserved by a proper conservation try orest productivity, according to Prof. Burt P. Kirland, of the Colloge of Foresch of the University of Washington, who has compiled figures to show that it is gronth for the large holding companies of the West to manage with a view to future ${ }^{\text {gronth than to follow their present system of exploitation. "The present system, "he }}$ ${ }^{0} f_{f}$ ares, "requires that a greater part of the annual returns from cutting be charged $t_{i z a t i}$ a depletion of capital. Under the proper system of forest menagement, the amoralation of the capital invested in the virgin timber is accomplished more slowly, that it not so completely, and at the same time leaves the land in such condition it is producing annual returns."

San Francisco. .- At last, the first living platypus has reached America. This specimen of the Australian duck-bill that has the bill of a bird, the fur of an animal, lays eggs and yot sucklos it young has just arrived among a consignment of kangaroas, wallabiow, and other Australian animals under the care of E. S. Joseph, animal trader.

If it is carried alive to New York a leading supporter of a New York zoological ${ }^{80}$ cioty will pay several thousand dollars for it,
$U_{p}$ to this time no one had succeeded in bringing a platypus across the sea alive. Ir. Joseph embarked with two of the animals but one died at sea.

Attempts to keep the animal in captivity have usually ended in the early death of the platypus. But Mr. Josoph has managed by studying the tastes and want s of the animals to keep one in good health and spirits for twelve months.

The platypus is one of the only tro mamals in the world which lays eggs. The Other, the echidna, or ant-eat or, is much hardier and more adaptable. One lived for ${ }^{17}$ years in the Philadelphia 200.
III HAS EIGHT ATOMIC
IGHIS, NOT ONE
London. ${ }^{0 \%}$ the
e single one of 118.7 , commonly accepted by chemists, so Dr. F. W. Aston, British Phy $l_{5}$ cist, has announced. Lines corrosponding to atomic weights of approximately 126, 127, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122 and 124 have been located in the spectruxo. His Dethod $118,119,120,121,122$ and 124 have been located in the spectruxc. His now thon of preparing photographic plates for spectrographic work makes them ten to fonty times as sensitive as formorly. He also announces the confirmation of a susPocted split of the element, xenon, into two components with weights of 128 and 130 . It
 ut supposed until recently that all the atoms of an element were exactly the same
this work shows that what was taken as the atomic weight wasmarely an average of
forpal different kinds of atoms. This accounts for the decimal fraction in the acatomic weight of tin, 118.7.

Rochest er, Ninn.
Water in excess is an intoxicant. With the aid of an extract from one of the ductless glands and also without such assistance in controlling thirst, Dr. Leonard G. Rowntree of the Mayo Clinic has proved that excessive water drinking by either man or animals intoxicates,
"Water intoxication," he says, "is hard to produce as nature has provided against the accuraulation of water in the body in poisonous amounts. Through thirst the in${ }^{\text {Cess, }}$, the output through the kidneys and the skin takes care of the surplus.
"In order to control the thirst, an extract from the small ductless gland at the ${ }^{\text {base of the brain was used. Under the influence of this drug, the patient kept drink- }}$ ing water until he developed marked headache, nausea, a staggering gait, unsteadiness of muscle and inability to stand or walk, which lasted for a fow hours."

This same process was tried with dogs with even more striking results. Cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs were also sent on a dangerous water $j$ ag by the excessive taking of ordinary drinking water or distilled water irrespective of the temperature of the fluid and without the aid of the glandular extract. Although the quantities of rater absion about an ounce per pound of body weight every hour, the amount ${ }^{2} b_{\text {sorbed }}$ is definitely limited. The intoxication is not accompanied by significant Changes in body temperature or by constant or marked changes in the blood volume. ${ }^{\text {Plood pressure is somewhat increased. }}$

The convulsions of water poisoning are cerebral in origin and of extreme violence at times, usually lasting from one to ten or fifteen minutes. A strong salt solution ${ }^{2}$ anistered intravenously after the early evidence of toxicity prevents, as a rule, ${ }^{t}$ the onset of convulsions and coma. All the symptoms of uremia can be experimentally induced by excessive water.

Manhattan, Kans. - "The science of music" may sound strange to artistic ears, but Prof. E, V. Floyd of the Kansas State Agricultural College here is teaching it. He calls his course "The Physics of Music and Musical Instrument s" and claims that it is the first attempt in the United States to give students the underlying ${ }^{\text {scientific principles upon which music is based. The study treats of such subjects }}$ as the analysis of tone and why one violin string is better than another.
"The time is past," sayd Prof. Floyd, "when an artist is satisfied with knowing only his art. He is looking for the explanation of long known facts which have puzzled him. The art of music has always been far in advance of science. The secret of manufacture of the Cremona violin was known only to one It alian family, and it is only today, years afterwards, that scientists are discovering therlost art, which con${ }^{81}$ sts only of the fundamental scientific principles which underlie its manufacture."

No advanced work in science or higher mathematics is required; demonstrations are used. Many musicians have pondered over the law of compound tones. Prof. Floyd compares the tone of a tuning fork, poor in quality, to that of the violin, richin quality. He fastens a string to the prong of a tuning fork and then sets the tuning fork into vibration. Ho then applies different tensions to tho string which causes it to vibrate as awole, in halves, and in thirds. Then by comparison Mr. Floyd shows hoti the violin string vibrates as a whole, in halves, and in thirds, simultaneously.
"From this we find that the violin string is a compound tone, while that of the tuning fork is simple," says Mr. Floyd, "and thus we find that the compound tone is ${ }^{\text {a minical cord of many tones, each decreasing in loudness as the pitch increases." }}$ ORIGINAL CHINESE FOUND IN SIAM

| surua, to the Agricultural Deparment here that he has found a <br> Chingse referred to in the oldest historical book of China which dates back two thous- <br> and years before Christ. "They are called Miao," he says, "and do not eat or grom any <br> "Fog but only corn. Theycut down the forests and plant corn at an elevation of 3,500 <br> i, 000 feet on the elephant-shaped mountain of DOi Chang on which they live. They <br> ${ }^{2}{ }^{2}$ the dirtiest people I ever saw, barring not even the Tibetans. Their naked chil- <br> dren mallow in the mire with the pigs. They are natives of Kweichow Province, China, <br> but have migrated over into Iunnan and even into north Siam." |
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## (A Chat on Science)

## MEDIUMS AND TRICKSTERS.

By Dr. Edwin E.Slosson,

Those who believe in spiritistic phenomena call upon their opponents to disprove their hypothesis, and hold, rightly onough, that if ninety-nine mediuns are merely tricksters, it does not prove that the hundredth is not genuine. It is, of course, impossible to prove the universal negative of such a proposition. It is merely a question of probabilities. We can merely say that if spirits do return, it is ex${ }^{t}$ remely unfortunate that they can only return under those conditions which are most favorable for deception.

What these conditions are We can learn from the practices of amateur and pro${ }^{{ }^{\text {ossional }}}$ conjurers. Let us approach the matter from another starting point than is usually adopted. Instead of speculating as to how departed spirits would manifest themselves to us, a matter which we can know nothing about, let us consider what a ${ }^{\text {trickster would do if he wished to deceive the public into thinking that he was pos- }}$ ${ }^{B} e^{8 s}$ ed of spirit power, a matter on which we have unfort unately a great deal of inlomation. What conditions would he impose? What methods would he use? The following are the chief characteristics of such fraudulent manifestations:
(1) Darkness. The less the light the more remarkable the manifestations is the Sonoral rule.
(2) Distraction of attention. This is the chief reliance of the parlor and Otage magician. The most striking things in the seance room occur after the sitters ${ }^{\text {are }}$ tired of watching.
(3) Unexpectedness. An experimenter lets us know what effect he is trying to Bot, and even if the experiment does not work ho does not palm off some ent irely different phenomenon and claim he has succeeded. The feats of the conjurer - and of tho modium - are capricious and unforeseen. That is why trickery cannot be guardod
against by precautions in advance.
(1) Control of conditions. The conjurer and the mediums alike insist on having lights, furniture, sitters and apparatus arranged to suit themselves. On the other hand, the primary requisite of an experiment is the control of conditions. It is, therefore, incorrect to speak of experiments with mediums. They are usually merely ${ }^{0} b_{\text {servations, and that under circumstances most unfavorable to correct observation. }}$
(5) Suggestion. This is the main reliance of the magician, next to distraction of attantion. He palms a coin while protending to throw it into a hat or into the air. Our eyes follow the motion of his hand and interpret it according to the int ent. It is ensy under favorable circumstances to cause collective hallucinations of smell, oight or sound. Our sonse of hearing is particularly liable to be deceived as to the charactor and direction of a sound, such as the raps and scratches which are the commonest of mediumistic phenomena.
(6) Concealment. A prostidigitator for his most difficult tricks requires some kind of a table, shelf or screen, but he rarely demands so convenient a shelter as the medium's cabinet or curtain.
(7) Tied or held hands. The releasing of hands and feet when they are bound, hotted and sealed is the cheapest of tricks. I have seen a man handcuffed by a ${ }^{102}$ ceman, tied in a bag and thrown into the river, yet he came to the surface irotuptly with his hands free.
(8) Inveluntary assistance. The respectable and well-meaning gent lemen whora the audience select to represent them on the stage do not interfere with the magi"fial, on the contrary, they oft en aid as well as give him count enance. The magnet ie lirl who used to throw, strong men about the stage was really utilizing their strength, Prevent own. Where several persons have their hands on a table it is impossible to ${ }^{\text {revent }}$ their taking an active part in its motion.
$\operatorname{let}_{\text {( }}$ (9) Emotional excitement. An experimenter must preserve a cool and somewhat Nached demeanor. Now, even the most convinced skept ic cannot witness unmoved such Prld ions of natural lam as these, purporting to prove the existence of another ${ }^{6}$ orph, and especially the presence of his deceased friends and relatives. The photoWh taken of the seance room show us not merely that the table is suspended in mid "ft but that the witnesses, watching it with bulging eyes, open mouths and strained
'ention, are incapable of critical observation.
Condit these nine points and others the conditions of successful trickery and the
inditions of the seance are the same. For that reason and others most scientists
not think it worth while to spend their time on spiritualism.

## NEVS OF THE STARS

## The Big Dipper

By Isabel M. Lewis of U.S. Naval Observatory.

The Big Dipper, the bright design in seven stars which has such a cooling suggostion these hot nights, is, like many frmiliar things, looked at with unseeing eyes. Everyone in the northern hemisphere from spponing youth to tired old age, knows this bright star group. There are not so many, however, that know that five of these steady-looking bright lights are speeding away from the others, and that these five belong to a great moving cluster of stars known as the Ursa Najor or Big Bear clustor.

This cluster, which consists of at least thirteen stars, has the form of a disk about fifteen light-years in thickness and one hundred and fifty light years in light travels in 150 years; that is the diameter of the Big Bear.
Sirius, the brightest star in the heavens which is only eight and a half lightyears from the solar system is also a member of this cluster as is also Beta Aurigae, the bright star in the constellation of Auriga which is visible in the winter to the "orth of Orion. This star is one hundred and thirty light years distant, and the i've stars in the Bi light rat from the earth. It may seem strange that stars so widely sepaas the stars in the Big Dipper, Sirius and Beta Aurigae should all be members of one connected group but this apparently great separation of certain mambers of ${ }^{t}$ chustor is an effect of the nearness of the solar system to the principal plane of the cluster. If instead of being almost in the midst of this cluster we were at ${ }^{2}$ distance of several hundred light years from it, it would appear to us as a small Compact group of faint stars similar in appearance to the Pleiades or the V-shaped
group of the Hyades in Taurus.
The star at the end of the handle of the Big Dipper and the star farthest from it in the Bowl are not members of this cluster and as they are moving in another direction through space the distinctive form of the Big Dipper will in time be lost. But that fact need not greatly disturb us for many centuries will pass by before star-drift will destroy our long cherished Big Dipper. Many generations to come will admire this heirloom of the heavens studded with celestial gems that has been handed dorin to the present generations from the early days of recorded history, just as we admire it today untarnished by time.

The stars in the bowl of the Big Dipper form the body and the stars in the hande form the tail of Ursa Major, the Greater Bear. The head and paws of the bear are formed by faint stars lying to the west and south of the seven bright stars. Our ${ }^{\text {Big }}$ Dipper, then, is but a portion of the far more extensive constellation of Ursa Yajor and our Little Dipper with the pole-star, Polaris, at the ond of the handle, similarly outlines the body and tail of Ursa. Minor, the Lesser Bear. Both of these constellations we will now find conspicuously in view in the early evening in the north and northwest.

At this time of year when so many are camping out or hiking in unfamiliar re${ }^{8 i} \mathrm{n}_{\mathrm{s}}$ it is woll to bear in mind a fact which should be well-known to everyone, that tho Pointers of the Big Dipper, as the two stars in the bowl farthest from the handle are called, point infallibly to the true north. An imaginary line through these two ${ }^{\circ \text { tars extended upward from the bowl to a distance about equal to the length of the }}$ Big Dipper brings us to the pole-star at the end of the handlo of the Little Dipper. Anyone abroad at night in an unfamiliar country might find it of great service to have these friendly guides among the stars.

## porporial

## THE SEAL OF THE FINGER

Kings of old usod the imprint of their signet rings to seal their bargains and papers of state.

Rings are not as fashionable as they once were, and they are likely to be lost, but every man, woman and child of us has ten good fingers that will infalliblq act as soals and signatures.

Being finger-printed has a criminal suggestion to it. But because they are efficient in identifying the right person as well as the wrong-doer, finger prints can be made equally useful in commercial life. The Post Office Department has decided to uise the imprint of the forefingers of both hands to supplement the signature of a postal savings depositor or as a substitute for the signat ure if the saver can not write and under ordinary circumstances has to use a witnessed $X$. And scientists have banished the inky fingers and substituted greasy ones. Several New York and Chicago banks are requiring their customers to use finger-prints as check protectors. And during the war one of the largest collections of finger-prints ever rade was created when some $5,000,000$ men in the army and navy hadttheirs taken.

At the Leavenworth, Kansas, penitentiary the Department of Justice has the larges, ${ }^{c o l l e g t i o n ~ o f ~ c r i m i n a l ~ p r i n t s ~ i n ~ A m e r i c a . ~ C r i m i n a l s ~ s e r v i n g ~ l o n g ~ t o r m s ~ a r r a n g e ~ a n d ~}$ ${ }^{c}$ assify the 250,000 print s that will bring them cell-mates. But police use of finger prints, while still important, is numerically surpassed by commercial use.

Littlo skill is needed in applying finger-print identification. When the post office department was considering the adoption of its new system, its officials tingerprinted a roomful of thirteen people and asked an old postal clerk who had ${ }^{n} v_{\text {er }}$ seen a finger-print before to pick out tho owner of a certain print. He did, easily.
$\mathrm{N}_{0}$ ． 68
DO YOU KNOW THAT－
The natives of Ayon Island， 700 miles west of Bering Strait，do not know their own ages－but they kill old people as an act of mercy．

An institute for testing and studying metals has just been organized in

The first regular observations on the pulse rate by counting the number of beats in a minute by the watch were made by Sir John Floyer，English physician， in 1707 ． $\qquad$
Female crickets，grasshoppers，and katydids are dumb．
DO YOU KNOW THAT－
The mayor，three aldermen，and one member of the school board are chemists．
－－－－－～－－－－－
Use of gunpowder for firearms was discovered by a German monk，Berthold
Schwarz，about 1300 A ．D．
Although some birds have a well－developed olfactory apparatus，scientists doubt that they have any efficient sense of smell．
－－ー－ーーー－
A machine for mincing microbes has been invented in England．
DO YOU KNOW THAT－
Examination of the fossil skull of the Rhodesian man shows that that

The river Nile is lower than any previous record of modern times，causing
${ }^{2}$ curtailment in water for irrigation of the Egyptian cotton crop．
it is the output of iron increases $5 \%$ per annum，as it did before the war， estimated that the supply would be exhausted in about 130 years．

[^0]110,68
DO YOU KNON THAT -
Helium, the gas used in the three latest army balloons, was discovered 54 years in the sun by means of a spect roscope, 27 years before it was found on earth.

Scrap rubber, spread on in liquid form, is used for raad-surface dressing in
Con.

Ous, The bite of the American tarantula, long popularly believed to be deadly poisonis now known to be little worse than a bee sting.

Kent ucky blue grass grows successfully in well-fertilized lawns in Alaska.

## DO YOU KNON THAT -

like Ants had developed their present highly organized society long before our apeancestors had settled down into communities.

Tith Timited French state railways are experimenting with gasoline-driven motors on lines limited traffic.
and The crossing of the yak with common cattle as practiced in Mongolia, Siberia, ibet, produces an animal more serviceable than either of the parent stock.

Of Shocks from electrical fishes were used by the anciont Romans in the treatment of various disorders.

Do YOU KNOW THAT -
the The longest continuous series of annual weather records known are the rings in Big Trees of California, dating back as much as 3,200 years.

For Wica, the transparent, heat-resisting mineral, familiar to many through its use
the lindows in heating stoves, has now become so essential in electrical industry that larger electrical-supply manufacturing companies own and operate their own mines.

To The potential energy of falling water af the stroams in Brazil is est imat ed to
about threo and a quarter times that of Niagara Falls.

There are on the average three earthquakes a day in different parts of the globe

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## FRAGMENTS OF SCIENCE

Among the lowest, but not physiologically the simplest, of living organisms, the bacteria, we find some species that can produce light. Such bacteria live mostly, almost exclusively, in the sea and more than fifty species have been described by investigators. Practically any single gallon of water than one draws from the ocean contains one or more of them and they are present in large numbers in the ${ }^{\text {slime }}$ in the surfaces and in the various body cavities of almost all animals that live in salt water.


[^0]:    Breat＂Pasteur＂，a play by M．Sacha Guitry which deals with the life of the French bacteriologist，has recently been produced in Iondon．

