GIANT METEOR FALLS

MIRRY ASSOLITE HITS EARTH BEAR BATON ROUGE, LA.

Shock Breaks Many Windows-Nearby Residents Thought It Was an Earthquake - Fight Over Its Ownership.

Baton Rouge, La. -- One of the Margest and most wonderful meteormes ecen in many years fell near this usty recently. At the time the mercours registered about 50 degrees. The was clear, and there was no perexplible movement of the atmosphere. Suddenly a light cloud appeared in me west, and from the cloud a blue-Conted luminous globe shot out. It swept across the heavens toward the

sest, when it lost its globular form, bursting like an immense rocket, into Three fragments. These maintained Their relative position as they darted mercus the sky from west to east. About one minute was consumed in the flight. The two smaller pieces remembled brilliantly illuminated chandeliers, with many jets of purple flame. These two were never found, and the supposition is that they were conmemed before reaching the earth. The third and largest of the three

pieces struck the earth just east of the wity near the suburban home of Julius Maklinger, where it penetrated the arround to a depth of several feet. The Summense body fell with such force that ymany believed there had been an marthquake.

The shock was felt for several miles n each direction. Many houses were shaken, and window panes were Broken, some of them crashing to the moor in the capitol building.

As soon as the meteorite had cooled mufficiently to permit of its being mandled, it was taken out of the ground sand placed on an improvised truck for premoval to the city. Thus far its weight has not been determined, though it is known to be several tons.

The outside portion of the meteorite nalmost covered, like other aerolites, with a hard vitrified brown crust, the "htter having a heard black coating, or seamel, which in some places has the armarance of black varnish. Intermally it is of half a dozen shades of wdor mostly whitish-gray interspersed with bright, shining particles, The pyrites. A pale slate color is also peru, and the matter in these parts of the meteorite has somewhat of an sarthy appearance. The mass is porissue, and an analysis has revealed the presence of hornblende and labrader-

A number of spherical bodies of slate smfor are imbedded in the whitish-gray substance of the interior. There were also found scattered throughout the mass hard globules of another color and of different sizes, besides small quantities of a yellowish-brown pyritic substance. The white nortion crumbles more easily than the rest, and its powwhen is attracted considerably by the maket. The outside crust of enamel was also found to be highly mag-Betic.

It has not yet been determined what ishall be done with the strange visitor. mough it will probably be sold or presented to some museum. Tulane unisersity, of New Orleans, as well as a number of other southern educational institutions, is making an effort to sepure the meteor for its museum, but Tau steps can be taken until the quesmon of its ownership has been setmard.

The meteor fell on or near the diwiding line between two pieces of property, and the prospective owners. Mr. Bahlinger and Joseph Duncan, are engaged in a controversy over its own-

DYNAMITE AS A PLAYTHING French Congo Official Has Native Blown Up in Wanton Sport-Will Be Punished.

Taris.-The arrest of M. Toque, an of-Sciul of the Congo Free State, and his meturn with two detectives to Brazzawille, in the Congo, to stand trial on enhanges of gross cruelty, illustrate the promptitude with which King Leopold's government prosecutes any man against whom such charges are preferred. Toque was on his vacation here. He is now at Bordeaux, whence he will sail mader guard.

The charges against him are grave. They are that he and his employes were intoxicated when a question arose about the power of dynamite, and decided that an amusing diversion would be to try the effect of a dynamite cartridge on a mative; that they seized one of a crowd mutside awaiting coins or other gifts from the merrymakers, took the captive see the courtyard, bound him, laid him en the ground, placed a dynamite carmridge under his back and exploded it. expecting with shouts of laughter the spectacle of the lad being blown to SUCTORS.

It is alleged that on another festive mecasion they decapitated a native, made arup out of his head and invited his immediate relatives and friends to partake of the ghastly pot an fee. When the botmen of the caldron was reached the bead #as revealed

On the Wrong Track. Dr. Charles W. Littleffeld, a scientist of Alexandria, Ind., whose discoveries in The line of creative energy, spontaneous generation and magnetism have attract. ad attention, has just, by means of hes formula, evolved an octopus having might arms, each with two rows of suck-"Doc" had better quit right there, memarks the New York Telegram. There sere enough arms, with hands attached thereto, out now But if he can produce her arms and more suckers we can

Bramp over to Jersey and incorporate

Mgb! away.

FLASH CUTS CAPERS.

LIGHTNING PREFORMS QUEER ANTICS IN NEW ORLEANS.

Boof, Chimney and Side of a House Shattered, Plastering Loosened -Woman Gets Into Bed and Escapes Injury.

New Orleans .- With her head buried between two pillows and lying prostrate on a feather mattress, Miss Catherine Surgi, of Derbigny and Lapeyrouse streets, passed through one of the most remarkable and thrilling lightning experiences recorded in this city. The house was struck while the rain and windstorm was at its height, and the holt, after following a house wire, shattered the roof and chimney over a rear upstairs room and also filled the house with broken plastering and destroyed several trinkets on the mantelpiece. After going through all this Miss Surgi emerged from her place of shelter and calmly called for assistance, as she believed that the building had been set on fire by the bolt.

The Surgi residence was struck after a series of vivid lightning flashes had startled the entire neighborhood in the vicinity of the St. Bernard market. Capt. P. J. Gallicio, of chemical engine No. 10, was in the engine house when he saw a blaze start from a wire leading in the direction of Miss Surgi's home. He watched the sparks as they rapidly approached the corner of Derbigny and Lapeyrouse, when suddealy the circuit jumped from the wire to an electric signal button on the front of the Surgi place.

The impact was so great that the front door was knocked off its hinges and the glass panel broken into fragments. The side of the house where the hinges were fastened was torn into splinters before Miss Surgi realized what had occurred.

The trinkets on the mantelpiece were knocked off and broken, but a large plate mirror suspended over the mantel was found lying on the floor. upside down, without a crack, one of the many freaks played by the lightning. The plastering in the same room and that of the adjoining room, which was occupied by Miss Surgi, was tora from the walls and ceiling.

The lightning, according to Capt. Gallicio's examination, followed the bell wire through three rooms and the kitchen to a small shelf used for the storage cells. These were found intact, but the current continued down another wire to the rear of the house. It must have been interrupted, for three boards in a feather-edge fence were broken off as if the work was done by a carpenter.

After demolishing the fence the power again followed the bell wire, going up the steps to a room on the second floor.

Here the most startling work was done, for every slate was roof and the brick chimney scattered in almost every direction. Some of the broken brick were hurled for half a square, while the flying plaster was converted into a dease cloud. The walls were disconnected at the corners and, in fact, the room was a wreck.

Miss Surgi explained that she went through the whole thing without a scratch. She attributes her escape, from death to a remarkable combination of circumstances, first among which was a presentment that lightning would strike the house, and the other was that she suddenly became afraid and protected herself by getting

"I was never afraid in my life before this storm came up," declared Miss Surgi in relating her experience, "but something told me to leave my sewing machine and take to the bed, as [know that a feather mattress is a nonconductor. I had hardly covered my head with the pillows when I heard a loud report, accompanied by a blinding flash. I knew it was lightning. but it was all over so quick that I did not know what had actually happened until I got up and saw the house filled with plastering and the front door forn from its fastenings. Then I rushed to the sidewalk and called for help, as I was under the impression that the house was on fire."

ANCIENT MAN HAD 13 RIBS

Baltimore Scientist Explains Eve's Origin from Skeletons of Egyptian Mummies.

Baltimore, Md.—The Biblical story of Eve being formed from the rib of Adam was explained by Prof. James Teacle Dennis, of Baltimore.

Nowadays men have 12 ribs. Eight thousand years ago they used to have 13. Prof. Dennis knows this is so. hecause he has seen old skeletons. He said a party of which he was in charge discovered 175 mummies in Egyptian tombs and that of this number the thirteenth ribbed individuals were so plentiful as to make this anatomical

peculiarity a distinctive feature. "These peculiar skeletons dated back to 6000 B. C.," Prof. Dennis told an audience at Johns Hopkins university, "so men soon after the creation must have

Life-Savers on Strike. The lifeboa: men at Gorleston, Eng-

land, went on strike the other day for higher wages, and when signals of distress were sounded from a lightship they refused to put out in their boat. Another crew had to take out the boat.

Memorial to Jewish Brave. Field Marshal Lord Roberts has unveiled in the Central Synagogue, London, a memorial to the Jewish soldiers who fell in the British army in the South African campaign

Sun Priest Hanish Enrolls Large Number of Gotham Social Lights ___Met Failure Before.

New York.-The amazing fact that 2.000 of New York's fushionable society women are sun wor-hipers and votaries of the Mazdaznans, the mystic Persian cult expounded by Otoman Zar Adusht Hanish, has been revealed through the arrest of Mrs. Brownie Rathbone Weaverson, 150 West One Hundred and Fourth street, a disciple of the mysterious religion.

Mrs. Weaverton is charged with having taught the Persian theory to Mrs. Ellen Rachell, an aged woman living at 1453 Amsterdam avenue, who is now expected to lose her life as the result of the treatment.

Instances have been cited in which women have been driven insane by their fanatical devotion to the strange belief; others have been made cripples and doomed to a life of misery; Dr. Hanish, the priest apostle himself, has been arrested on the charge of having tortured his followers; yet, despite these facts, the society is not only in existence in New York, but the number of his followers among the fashionable set is growing.

In the morning these women bow to the rising orb and address it as a god. in the evening they prostrate themselves on rugs as did the Persians of old and the ancient Toltecs of Mex-

The philosophy expounded by Dr. Hanish, he says, dates back to 142,000 years before Christ. In the old Zend language "Madsa" means sun, and it is in this origin that the philosophy obtained its name.

The first accempt by Dr. Hanish here to start the society, a few years ago, met with failure. He then went to Chicago, and, inflated with his success there, came back to New York, and now has 2,000 women followers.

VIOLETS CURE FOR CANCER

Liquor Distilled from Blossoms Reported Efficacious in Two Different Cases.

London.-That a brew from violet leaves is an effective cure for cancer may not be new in theory, but two actual cures are now reported. Much interest has been taken in a

story in the Lancet told by Dr. Gordon, of Exeter, of a man who refused to be operated upon for cancer on the tongue. Then violet leaves were tried, the garden variety being found preferable to the wild violet. Every day he drank part of the brew;

the rest he used as a fomentation. That treatment has been continued since the beginning of November last, and now nothing remains but a tiny scar. On reading this story a woman well

known socially writes, telling an even more remarkable story of the cure of cancer on the liver by violet leaves. Treated by a specialist without avail.

she grew morose and worse, till violet leaves were suggested by a friend. Hopeless of ever being cured, she nevertheless tried it. She took a wineglass of the decoction several times a day and also applied cotton wool soaked in the hot liquor over the seat of the cancer. The woman says she is now completely

PREMIUM PUT ON CHILDREN

Birth Insurance Company, of Massachusetts, Is Beady to Check Race Suicide.

Boston.-The necessary number of applicants for policies in the American Birth Insurance company, which was incorporated in this state last July have been secured, and it is announced that the first of these unique policies has been issued.

Many prominent Bostonians are among the incorporators of the scheme, which is hoped to have the effect of relieving one of the greatest hardships of the poor, and to do away with a potent cause for race suicide.

Policy-holders pay what is known as universal assessments, and continue to do so for 18 months. At the conclusion of this time children born to the policy-holders draw a premium; according to the face of the policy. To be eligible as a policy-holder.

one must first be a member of the American Parents' Educational association and be under 50 years old. Since the incorporation of the plan several other cities, not all in America, have taken up the idea, and Mrs. Estelle M. H. Merrill, the president,

matter. MAY STOP SEA-SICKNESS.

has received letters from many

sources seeking information on the

Invention Which Will Reduce Rolling of Vessels to a Minimum Is to Be Tried.

Berlin.—The Hamburg-American line is fitting out the steamer Vulcan at its works at Stettin with an invention by Otto Shyk, an engineer of Hamburg, which, it is expected, will reduce the rolling of vessels at sea to a minimum. It consists of a massive balance wheel mounted in such a manner as to counteract the shifting of the center of gravity of the ship. The invention has been tested only in connection with models. but the Hamburg-American officials are so convinced of its utility that they are advancing money and loaning a vessel for a trial which will take place in June for July. Naval engineers regard the invention as likely to be of the greatest use to war ships in adding to the stability of gun platforms.

Label Supply Limitless. Vermont dispatches tell us that the maple sugar supply will be lighter this year than usual. The label supply, however, is practically limitless.

HAS 2,000 SOCIETY WOMEN POLICEMAN GAINS RICHES.

Speculative "Cop" of Brooklyn Starts with Capital of 35 and Is Now Worth \$150,000.

Brooklyn, N. Y.-Erastus G. Wolcott, of this borough, is a pollceman attached to the Oak street precinct, Manhattan. He is 37 years of age. He has been in the city only since 1894. Yet in real estate deals he has been able to acquire property in Brooklyn worth nearly \$150,000, and which is bringing him an annual rental of \$15,000.

Before Wolcott came to New York city he was employed in the Binghamton state hospital, and he came here to go on the police force when Theodore Roosevelt was head of the police board. Wolcott was formerly a farmer, but in his real estate speculation in Brooklyn he has developed the shrewdness of a man who had been in that business all his life. Starting on a capital of five dollars, he has built up his real estate holdings until his investments now, so he told an Eagle' reporter the other day, stand to bring him in a profit over and above all expenses of over \$6,000 a year.

Few men have been as successful in real estate deals as this modest upstate countryman, who is holding down a beat in one of the toughest police precincts in the city. Whether it was shrewdness or just plain luck that made Wolcott's fortune in real estate it is hard to say. He does not talk like a man well up on real estate. He appears to know more about the police business, but he has shown such good judgment in his purchases and sales that it cannot be said that he owes what he has got merely to good

BRITON CETS BIBLE PRIZE. English Clergyman Captures Gould

Award for Best Essay on the Scriptures. New York,-The world-wide essay-

writing contest which Miss Heien Miller Gould started in November, 1903, for the purpose of determining the relative merit of the Roman Catholic and Protestant versions of the Scriptures has been closed by the announcement of the winners. Two Protestant clergyings and a schoolteacher carried off the prizes.

The contest was the outgrowth of a controversy by correspondence between Rev. Father Early, of the Roman Catholic parish church at Irvington, and Miss Elizabeth Altman, secretary to Miss Gould.

In consequence of that statement Miss Gould asked Rev. Wilbur Webster White, head of the Bible Teachers' Training school of this city, to offer \$1,000 as first prize for the best essay on two topics:

1. The origin and history of the Bible approved by the Roman Catholic church.

2. The origin and history of the American revised version of the English Bible.

The first prize, \$1,000, was awarded to Rev. William Thomas Whittley, a Baptist clergyman of Preston, England. He is a graduate of Cambridge. The second prize was won by Rev. Gerald Hamilton Beard, of Burlington, Vt., a Congregational minister, now at Yale. The third prize was awarded to Charles B. Dalton, a teacher in one of the New York schools.

MUST NOT SHOOT MAIL BOX

Texas Man Who Adopts That Form of Amusement Being Prosecuted by Uncle Sam.

Fort Worth, Tex.-Shooting into a mail box is not a sport approved by the United States government, as Jim Wilson, of Comanche county, has just learned.

Information reached Deputy United States Marshal Thomas, charging that Wilson had adopted such form of amusement recently. After an investigation, Marshal Thomas made complaint, charging that Wilson did "willfully and maliciously shoot into and injure a receptacle established by the postmaster general for the safe deposit and delivery of United States mail matter."

A warrant was issued, Wilson arrested, and the scene of action transferred to this city, where Wilson was given a hearing before United States Commissioner Dodge, and released on \$200 bonds for his appearance at the next term of court.

The case is a unique one in the records of this district, although the offense is specifically provided against in the federal statutes.

Kentucky's Girl Blacksmith. Miss Clara Medlin, of Pilot Oak, Ky., bears the distinction of being the only female blacksmith on record. Miss Medlin is a very handsome young lady, with a wealth of dark brown hair and a pair of bewitching brown eyes. She can shoe a horse or weld a tire as quickly as any smith, and as for neatness, no other smith will dare to compete with her. She is also an expert carriage painter. This is really her specialty, she having painted over 70 buggles the past season. Notwithstanding all of this, Miss Medlin has not neglected to educate herself in housekeeping and cooking.

Good for Somebody's Health. That French physician's 'oyster cure," requiring patients to eat six dozen of the bivalves daily, should be a great thing for the health of the oyster dealers.

Per Capita Consumption of Sugar. According to official figures every man, woman and child in the United States consumes an average of 80 pounds of sugar in a year.

MAIN OFFICE IN COUNTRY.

Big Building of Company in a Pieturesque Farming District of Ohio.

Cleveland.—As a general thing it takes a good-sized town to make a large office building. Seldom, indeed, does the office building make the town. But such is the case down at Leroy, O. Leroy has about 100 people. It is as pretty a little place as one could wish to see. There is an open, grassy square, with comfortable homes around it, the whole set in as pretty a sweep of scenery, with fine roads, well-kept farms, picturesque patches of trees and rolling hills.

Leroy has a graded school, but most of the scolars come from the surrounding country. The town is practically encompassed in the building in its center -an imposing building, of red brick, two stories in height, with wide windows and handsome grounds.

It is the central office of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance company, very likely the only really big concern whose headquarters are in the country, with branch office in the cities

Back in 1948 a few Ohio farmers got together to arrange for mutual protection against fire. They were all from one part of the country and it was just a neighborly sort of affair. All put up a certain amount of money, and a man suffering from fire was to be reimbursed from the general fund. But other farmers saw the advantages to be gained. asked to join and were taken in till at last the thing became a broadly known mutual benefit association, which was joined by farmers throughout this state and Indiana But as it grew, though offices were erected, the main buildings were kept right where the concern had started.

There was no moving away to a city. First a quaint frame building was put up and then, about 20 years ago, the present place was erected there at Lo-

There is the general manager of the company, there is a corps of clerks and stenographers. There, in fact, is practically the entire population of Leroy. which exists in and for the big office building which looms up out of the

It would be a good sized building anywhere, for though cally two stories and an attic in height, the ceilings are so high that it is as tall as a three-story building. But out there it seems really enormous.

MINT HAS NO SILVER COIN

May Be Shortage of Change by Congress' Failure to Act on Bullian Provision.

Philadelphia.—A serious shortage of silver coins in circulation and a further reduction of the working force at the mint is threatened by the failure of congress to make any provision for the purchase of silver bullion for coinage. At present there are only about 4,500 ounces of silver to the vaults of the mint. The only ray of hope that the mine officials could see was that there was an old law, passed in the early '50's, which might possibly be construed as giving the secretary of the treasury the power of purchasing silver in limited amounts. Unless Secretary Shaw can provide some relief there will be practically no silver coined until after the next session of congress.

At present the colners at the mint are working full time on nickels and cents. The adjusters are working on one-third time. They are divided into three shifts, each shift working for a month at a time.

No regular amount of silver has been coined. An order from the treasury department for 10,000 of the 250,000 special dollars for the Lewis and Clark exposition was received recently, and the coins, which are made from gold mined in Oregon, were all finished. The mint is now making a portion of the blanks used for nickels and cents, all of which were formerly made by outside contractors. If the experiment proves that the government can make the blanks as cheaply as they can be purchased it is probable that the mint will in future make all of them.

SHOOT ANIMALS IN COURT Novel Method to Show Prisoner Was Justified in Killing a Man.

Bridgeport, Conn -The carcasses of apig and a dog were exhibited to the jury in the trial of Paul H. Schmidt, the youth accused of the murder of William Taylor, a farm hand employed on the estate of W. H. Crittenden, in Sherman, last August.

The animals had been subjected to tests by medical men employed by the defense as experts on gunshot wounds. Dressed in men's clothing, so that the effect on both the fabric and living tissue could be noted, the animals were made the targets of shotguns, fired at different distances.

Witnesses for the state have asserted that, judging from the character of the wounds on Taylor's body, he must have been at least ten feet away from Schmidt when the fatal shot was fired.

As a result of the animal experiments. the experts for the defense testified that the men could not have been more than four or six feet apart at the time of the shooting.

Their testimony is in support of the contentions of the defense that Schmidt shot Taylor in self-defense immediately after a struggle for the possession of the gun.

More of the Strenuous. There is another vanishing industry. The Birmingham jew's-harp industry is stated to be in a bad way, owing to the collapse of the demand among savage peoples. The advance of civilization has been so thorough that nowadays in Central Africa nothing short of Wagner will satisfy the native souls.

NOT A WONDER DIAMOND.

Precious Gem Which Was Becently -Found in South Africa Won't Be-So Valuable When Cut.

New York -With the arrival of more complete information about the recent big diamond finds in the Transvaal, New York diamond importers have become rather scepticle over the real value of these gems. Some of the leading importers now declare that the atories about the diamonds sound like the work of a good press agent, and that the chief effect of the reported findings has been to boom certain

mines on the market. The first find reported a stone of 3,032 carats, supposed to be worth at least \$3,000,000. A little while later a diamond of 314 carats, valued according to various reports, at \$500,000, was picked up. Experts agree that the stones, when cut to proper size, will not only dwindle in size, but will shrink greatly in estimated value. To be available for the ordinary market ... big stones have to be cut into small sizes, because there are few persons who could afford to buy such large stones.

"We all know," said an expert, speaking of the latest discovery, "that the first reports of such finds in the past have been invariably exaggerated. You must remember that the value of diamonds of such unusual size is based largely on rumor and sentiment and may be partly fictitious.

"When the large Jagersfontein stone of 970 carate was found some years ago its value was put at \$5,000,000, Ultimately, when this stone, of the finest Jagers quality, which is the best in the world, was split and cut, the holders realized altogether from \$250. 000 to \$375,000. I have no doubt that the \$3 (HIO.000 estimate of the new 3.032) carat stone will dwindle in a similar proportion.

"As to the 334 carat stone found later, stones of this size are commonly found in African mines. Frequently the cutters in New York get several stones of that size in one shipment."

PAYS \$500 FOR A FINGER. Woman Gets Another's Digit in Bemarkable Operation—Principals Were Bound Together.

New York -For the first time in the history of medical science a finger was transferred from the hand of one person to that of another. It was the second and last step in the grafting operation undertaken 22 days ago by Dr. Andrew L. Nelden.

The principals in the novel case were two women who met for the first time only a day or two before they were bound together and the first step in the grafting of the finger was made. In the 22 days they have been living like the Siamese twins they have come to

know each other very well indeed The second finger of one woman's right hand was grafted to the stump of the second finger of the left hand of another said to be an actress. The latfer had lost all of the fingers up to the second joint in a shooting accident several years ago. She paid the first woman \$500 for the digit that is now on

ber hand. Several examinations have been made in the last ten days, and several days. ago it was found that a partnership circulation had been established in the finger that was to be grafted. From that time until the two hands were cut apart the two women had a common interest in the digit, their blood

mingling in that small channel. Much remains to be done before the operation can be pronounced a complete success, according to Dr. Nelden and the other surgeons. For 24 hours the hand on which the digit was grafted will be kept saturated in a strong saline solution. Then the flesh on the top of the finger will be stitched to that of the stump.

Dr. Nelden informed the two women that they would probably be able to go home on Sunday. They have never confided their names to Dr Nelden or anyone at his home.

SOLE MOURNER IS RICHER. Only Attendant at Funeral of Eccentric Woman Gets Reward When Will Is Opeand.

Bennington. Vt.-Among late deaths in the little village of Hillsdale, Columbia county, was that of Mary Millius, an eccentric old lady, and possessed of considerable property.

When the day of the funeral came it was a subject of much comment among the townspeople that only one carriage followed her to the last resting place. and in that carriage was Charles Bart-

When the will was opened it was found that she had made a provision to the effect that any relative who attended her remains to their last resting place should receive \$1,000. That amount, therefore, goes to Mr. Bartlett, who, although he is well-to-do and able to get along without the amount, will not turn it aside or refuse to accept it, as such an amount is not made under such circumstances every day. The balance of the estate was given to various persons in small amounts.

Stamp Brings # Dollar.

A dispatch from Fairbanks, Alaska, says that a common United States twocent postage stamp sold for \$1 there, and it was the last one to be procured at that price. There is not a stamp to be had in town, and all sorts of wild offers are being made for them by persons desirous of sending away mad matter.

Did It Happen Friday?

Bert Trout and Grace Croppy were married in Kellerton, Ia. Cupid seems to have gone fishing and made a good

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS