

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Vision of What May Come to Pass In the Rearrangement of Existing Conditions.

The man of the future sat patiently darning the family socks. From time to time his mild blue eyes glanced wearily round at the pile of mending at his elbow, and he sighed as he thought of Murphy, the raw Irishman, who needed incessant instruction in the most elementary details of the culinary art. Two noisy, sturdy girls promptly forgotfully about the room, aggravating his headache, while their gentle little brother sat quietly by his father's side, studying pictures in an old book of bygone fashions, which appeared naturally to the domestic instinct of the little man.

SEX EVEN IN BREAD MOLDS

Scientific Discovery That Will Tend to Astonish the Unthinking Layman.

Among the many extraordinary theories introduced by recent microscopic studies is that of sex in bread molds. After years of patient research it is announced that a distinguished scientist has found that these minute fungi, the lowest order of plant life, possess the characteristics of plants of the highest type, and have the power of reproducing their kind from two distinct and different races, in addition to giving new life from one. The precise meaning and value to organic evolution of the fact that in such low forms of life as the common molds male and female should be so sharply differentiated as in human beings are far from settled, but the discovery, if it be a discovery, is a most important contribution to the fascinating pursuit of the unknown in nature. Some of the microscopic slides show, it is claimed, groups of fungi which form the product of mated bread molds once separated by thousands of miles. To the unscientific eye they appear as pretty miniature forest jungles.

Minute Measurements.

Because the balance wheels of watches expand and contract with changes of temperature they run slower and faster, according to circumstances. By making them of different kinds of metal, having different degrees of expansion with increase of temperature, the effect of their changes on the running of watches may be almost entirely eliminated. But in dealing with such a problem it is necessary to know the expansibility of the metal employed.

Cat's Sense of Locality.

A kitten about six months old was taken to a house a few miles distant from its birthplace, confined in a room and tenderly cared for during a week and then set at liberty. It was supposed to have become habituated to its new surroundings, but it returned to its old home on the day of its release. The sense of locality and direction was exhibited still more strikingly by an old tomcat, which was stolen and carried a distance of 20 miles, confined in a bag. The cat was imprisoned, but made its escape, and in a few days reappeared in a pitiable state at the home of its former master, which was separated from that of the thief by a high wooded cliff.

A Husband's Pledge.

A wealthy middle-aged divorcee who married a good-looking and companionable young fellow, penniless himself, is said to have exacted from him, as part of the marriage contract, the pledge that he would spend every evening of his life with her. They were inveterate theater-goers until his death, which seems to corroborate the curious story. Many women would like to have the same power of keeping their husbands at home. New York Press.

In Modern Times.

"Hang it all, Ethel, must you aunt go along?" "Yes, George; but when every thing's going nicely you can pretend that something's wrong with the machinery and that it's absolutely necessary to lighten ship so we won't be all killed, and then we'll drop auntie overboard with the parachute."—Life.

Points of View.

"Does your wife object to late dinners?" "It all depends," said Mr. Meekton, "on whether the cause is a basketball game or a medece."

ROUGH ON WOMEN TRAVELERS

Country Visitor to City Saw at Once Disadvantages of Subway Entrances.

A genial Joshua, who runs a chicken plantation and cornstalk refinery down in the Salem county section of Jersey, came to this city the other day to buy a pair of winter boots and a box of axle grease, says the Philadelphia Telegraph. After rambling around in the ferry zone for a while he bravely cut loose and started up Market street.

He had not proceeded far when he saw an employe of the Philadelphia Electric Company lift the lid of a manhole and crawl down into the conduit chamber. Evidently the sight filled Joshua with much thought, for he gazed earnestly toward the manhole for a minute or two and then went over to a cop who was holding fast to a sunny spot on the corner.

"Excuse me, constable," said Joshua, addressing the police person, "but hasn't they got a railroad down in the ground under this street?" "They certainly have," indulgently answered the officer. "It is the subway."

KNOWN AS NATURE'S FILTER

Water Lotus Has Power to Purify Standing Water—Never Fails to Do Its Work.

There is a plant growing in the southern waters of the United States which possesses the singular property of being able to render the most impure standing water perfectly healthy. The people of Louisiana and Mississippi call it the water lotus. It consists of leaves about the size of the head of a pin, and roots so fine as to escape notice save under a microscopic inspection.

A Diamond Candle.

Many diamonds which have been exposed to sunshine give out light on being placed in a dark room. When placed in a vacuum and exposed to a high-tension current of electricity, diamonds phosphoresce, or shine, with different colors. Most South African diamonds, under these circumstances, exhibit a bluish light, while diamonds from other parts of the world shine with such colors as bright blue, apricot, pale blue, red, yellowish green, orange and pale green. In a lecture delivered in London, Prof. Crookes stated that one beautiful green diamond in his collection, when phosphorescing in a good vacuum, gave almost as much light as a candle. The light was pale green, almost white.

After the Rats.

As a country Germany has fewer rats than any other in the world. This is due to the interest taken by the government in their destruction. If a boy applies to the mayor of his town he is furnished with traps and paid half a cent for every skin he brings. In large towns there are 100 boys at work all the time. The cost of traps and bait makes each skin cost the government about a penny, but as every rat destroys five dollars worth a year, this makes a tremendous saving.

The Comet's Tail.

The tail of a comet is composed of gas, existing in a highly rarefied condition. Little particles of electricity called corpuscles, or ions, are being constantly given off at enormous speed by the sun. Each meteorite in the comet's head is surrounded by its own rarefied atmosphere. When one of these little ions strikes one of the molecules of gas in the comet's atmosphere, it carries it off with it to form the tail. The electrical charge makes the gas luminous, and it is by its light, and not by reflected sunlight, that the tail is made visible to us. A comet's tail, therefore, seems to be merely a very extended aurora.

Dating Canned Goods.

Dating canned goods would, it is admitted, make a lot of trouble for a few years, or until the business had become adjusted to the new conditions; but in the end many even now believe that the industry would be better off with this dated. There would be less over-production and a resulting improvement in the market, to say nothing of added confidence in consuming circles. The advice of Dr. Why seems extremely pertinent, and it is certainly worth careful consideration from wise-wake canners.

RECORD IN PICTURE TAKING

Remarkable Achievement of Mr. F. Dundas Todd, a Victoria (B. C.) Photographer.

Victoria, B. C.—What is stated to be the longest distance photograph ever produced was recently taken from Victoria, the subject matter being Mount Baker, distant from here 75 miles. The photographer, F. Dundas Todd, spent 18 months before he finally was successful in taking his subject, walking each morning during that time to the top of Reservoir hill.

On a clear, calm morning, when the towering summit of the Cascades was clearly defined against the sky-line, 12 photographs were taken from Shotbolt's hill. Mr. Todd having decided upon this point after many futile visits to Reservoir hill.

The record longest distance photograph previously taken was one in Switzerland, over a distance of 65 miles. The present picture covers 75 miles, and whereas the former was taken over land the latter possesses the drawback of having had to shoot across 40 miles of water, which produces a mirage effect in photos. In Mr. Todd's photograph eight or nine planes of different values are clearly defined. First is seen the land below Shotbolt's hill, then a sheet of water broken by Discovery and Chatham islands; beyond these more water, and then the end of San Juan island, on which a house is distinctly visible. Further away still a portion of Lopez island is discernible, then come the foothills of the Cascades, while crowning all, standing out in clear and distinct relief in all its snowclad majesty, is Mount Baker.

The picture was taken at midday during two hours of absolute calm. The camera was an old one, invented some twenty years ago. The focal lens was 68 inches in length. Special plates were used. The ray filter with which the photograph was taken was designed by Prof. Wallace of Yerkes Observatory, who presented it to Mr. Todd.

ADDS TO CONSCIENCE FUND

Tennessee Preacher Sends Forty Two-cent Postage Stamps to Street Car Company.

Syracuse, N. Y.—"Conscience money" came to C. Loomis Allen, general manager of the Syracuse Rapid Transit Company, in the form of 40 two-cent stamps, purporting to have been forwarded by Rev. H. E. Tower, a Tennessee clergyman.

DIVORCES HER DEAD HUSBAND

Peculiar Decree Secured by Woman to Bind Her Hold on Homestead—Collects Insurance.

Grangerville, Idaho.—A peculiar divorce suit was decided by Judge Steele, who granted a divorce to Mrs. Anna G. Murphy, whose husband, J. W. Murphy, has been considered dead for five years.

Six years ago Murphy suddenly disappeared and has not been heard of since. Mrs. Murphy recently exercised her widow's right to file on land, and to make sure that no complications arise, instituted action for divorce.

Mrs. Murphy has also continued during her husband's absence to keep his life insurance assessments paid up, and at the expiration of seven years from the time of his disappearance will be able to collect the insurance.

War Declared on Fly.

Washington.—A concerted country-wide attack is to be made on the house fly this year, according to Chief Entomologist Howard, who testified the other day before a house committee.

When spring begins hundreds of scientists, aided by laborers, drugs and chemicals and mechanical "killers," will try to drive the household pest out of existence.

Dr. Howard says the campaign will be opened in the country districts and the department will issue a farmers' bulletin giving advice as to the flies for which the flies are responsible and how to eradicate the pest.

Busy Blind Workman.

Beverly, N. J.—So rarely blind that he can scarcely distinguish daylight from darkness, James J. Carr is working at the Wall Rope works in the midst of machinery where one false step would mean his death, yet he is one of the ablest workmen in the place.

Carr has no fear of making the false step, for with an acute sense of touch he is more careful than those with good sight.

Before Carr lost his vision he was recognized as one of the best ropemakers in the business, and when he applied for his old job, although almost totally blind, the foreman hired him.

FISH 30 YEARS A CAPTIVE

When Released It Knew Something Besides How to Swim in a Circle.

A big sturgeon that has been a prisoner 30 years has just been released from his long captivity and set free in the Columbia river. The fish was taken from the Columbia river, near Cascade locks, in the spring of 1880. It was caught in a fish wheel and was given to the late Dr. W. H. Adams of Hood River.

The sturgeon was placed in a small pond on the Adams ranch, says the Portland Journal. There were then two ponds on the place, and the fish was changed from one to the other from time to time. Some years ago the ponds filled with grass and weeds, and the water became so shallow that the back of the sturgeon was blistered by the sun.

The fish was then moved to the pool of a fountain on the farm, where it swam about in a circle. It kept growing bigger, until it was about six feet long and the fountain was too small a place for it to be kept.

Mrs. Sue M. Adams Armstrong, owner of the farm, ordered the release of the pet fish, and the sturgeon was carried to the Columbia river and set free.

BEGINNING OF USE OF IRON

Hard to Trace Exactly, But Its Origin Is Thought to Have Been in Central Europe.

It is commonly believed that the use of iron commenced in either Africa or Asia. The latest investigations prove that it was not worked in Egypt until the ninth century before the Christian era, or in Libya until 450 B. C., that the Semites adopted its use still later, and that it has been known in Uganda only within the last five or six centuries.

In China iron is first mentioned in 400 B. C. Bronze weapons were employed in China until 100 A.D., and in Japan until 700 A.D. According to a Mr. Ridgeway, who has investigated this subject, the metallurgy of iron must have originated in central Europe, especially in Noricum, which approximately represented modern Austria and Bavaria.

From which countries the Achaean and Dorians are supposed to have migrated to Greece, are found evidences of a gradual introduction of iron, at first as an ornament applied to the bronze which it ultimately displaced.

Everywhere also iron was introduced suddenly—a fact which implies a foreign origin. It says that meteoric iron was known in Egypt in remote antiquity, but no doubt it was worked as flints are worked, by cutting or chipping, and was not smelted. In other words, it was metallurgy, not the knowledge of iron that originated in central Europe.

A Form of Selfishness.

"A form of selfishness peculiarly American," said a woman who has traveled much, "is that shown by young married couples who won't assume the responsibility of a home of their own. In every other country a home of one's own is a part of matrimony, but in America the number of young couples living in apartment hotels, or wandering from spot to spot, is increasing constantly. I believe the tendency grows out of the long honeymoon journeys most newly weds consider a necessary sequel of the ceremony. They get the nomadic habit, and grow more and more averse to assuming the burden of housekeeping. So they live on in apartment hotels, envious of their friends who are settled in comfortable homes, but too selfish to go and do likewise. The pity of it is when children come. The nomadic life is bad for children."

American Voices Something Fierce.

"You don't notice it so much when you have been living here right along," said a man who returned lately to America from the Orient, "but to a person who has spent the last two years in sleepy Hindu villages American voices, particularly the voices of American women, are, as the Hovary boy might put it, 'something fierce.' Men gabble or mutter or bellow, clip off words and talk through their noses, all of which is bad enough, but women tear your nerves to pieces by shrieking as if each were trying to outshout the other. My wife has dragged me to some receptions and things, and I wonder more and more why voices, such as our grandmothers had—sweet, low voices—are never heard any more."

What Keeps the World Alive.

There's the world at large; town, village, country, sea. What is it all about? A man's search for his God, his struggle to fill his stomach, and his desire for his mate. It is only love that keeps the whole pathetic mass together. Fine, slender cords, binding men and women. The light in a woman's eyes, the smiles of children, the actions men do from affection—these things keep the world alive. Nothing matters but that. The worst man loves somebody. The best man loves everybody.—New York Press.

WHEN HE MISSED HIS MOTHER

Bishop of Lincoln Regretted Inability to Make Frank Criticism of Poor Sermon.

Cannon Scott Holland, in an appreciation of the late bishop of Lincoln, mentions that Doctor King was a bachelor, and his mother lived with him till her death. He said once, after hearing a rasping sermon that irritated him: "It is at such a time that I miss my mother." He was asked why.

"Because directly we were through the door I should have turned to her and said: 'That was a beastly sermon, and then it would have been out, and I should have been sorry to have said it and should have begun to apologize for the sermon and to love the preacher. Now the poison is in me all the week and I can't get rid of it.'"

Doctor King had a delicate and subtle wit. Once, said the canon, we had all been rather swept off our feet by the vivacity of certain Bampton lectures which were laid out on rather well worn conventional lines.

The material was old, no doubt, but still it was surprising how well they went. How was it? What would King say of them? "Well, it is wonderful," he said, "how good an old pair of trousers will come out if you have laid them away for some time in a drawer."

He had hit it exactly. The trousers were green, for all their apparent age.

"A BROOM FOR THE STOMACH"

So the French Call Parsley—Pumpkin and Apple Both Rich in Phosphorus.

The French have a saying that "parsley is a broom to sweep the stomach." Lettuce is a nerve food. Radishes build tissue and are rich in phosphorus, also in iron.

Horsradish contains a higher percentage of sulphur than all the other vegetable roots, spinach ranking next in value. Spinach also contains a large percentage of iron.

A mayonnaise dressing with lettuce is especially desirable for thin people, but for the over plump French dressing is to be recommended. The action of vinegar on the digestive organs, however, is not to be considered. The acid of lemon juice is preferable.

While apples are a most excellent fruit for brain building, which phosphorus aids in, the humble pumpkin, desecrated to the uses of pie and jack of lanterns, holds the prize. Pumpkin rates 2.75 in phosphorus, while apple is but .45.

When in search of this special element take up a pumpkin diet. But as winter squash would stand the same analysis, it can be used as a vegetable in many varieties and thus the needed phosphorus supplied. Cucumbers rank next in phosphorus value to pumpkins, being 2.08.—Vegetarian Magazine.

And the Money Came Back.

When a Darby man sent a vest to be cleaned he forgot that in the inside pocket was a roll of notes amounting to \$165. He made up his mind that the money was lost in some other way and marked it down as something of the past. When the vest came home the money was discovered.

Perhaps the owner has not yet decided whether the money was overlooked by the cleaner, whether it was returned by an honest man, or whether the cleaning of the vest was merely imaginary. That he got the money back is enough to know, yet it would be only fair to the cleaner to give credit for not being curious to the extent of examining the pockets of garments sent to his shop, or else to hold that he is really an honest man, too modest to parade himself.—Wilmington (Del.) News.

Child's Fiendish Temper.

Death from exhaustion due to burns caused by being pushed into the fire by her younger brother, was the verdict at a Crewe (Eng.) inquest on the body of five-year-old Violet Capper. The mother left a number of little children playing in the yard, with instructions not to go into the house. Scarcely had she turned her back when Frank, aged two, got into the house, and Violet, who followed to bring him out, was pushed into the fire by him. The mother said Frank had a very nasty temper, and since the occurrence had attempted to push one of the other children into the fire. The coroner said it seemed almost incredible. The child was too young to be criminally charged.

Quarrels of Friends.

I think I have observed universally that the quarrels of friends in the latter part of life are never truly reconciled. A wound in the friendship of young persons, as in the bark of young trees, may be so grown over as to leave no scar. The case is very different as regards to old persons and old timber. The reason of this may be accounted from the decline of the social passions, and the prevalence of spleen, suspicion, and rancor, towards the latter part of life.

Didn't Appeal to Him.

"How did you enjoy the pony show?" "Oh," replied the sophisticated little boy, "I didn't care for it. There was too much horse play."

Apple vs. Onion.

She—They say that an apple a day will keep the doctor away. He—Why stop there? An onion a day will keep everybody away.—Boston Transcript.

MAN BELONGS TO HIS AGE

Essentially Subject of Environment, Life in Other Periods Would Be Impossible to Him.

Could a man, were he given the opportunity, really live in any age widely remote from his own? Modern philosophy tells us that life is then at its highest and best when the organism is perfectly adapted to its environment. If this be so, then it is clear that any large, sudden and abrupt change in the environment must impair the vitality of the organism, and might even destroy it altogether. If we think of it, a Greek of the age of Pericles, a Roman of the age of Julius Caesar, would find it as hard to live the life of today as any man now alive would find it hard to live in were he by some freak of magic, to fall asleep in his own world tonight and to wake up tomorrow morning in the Athens of Pericles or in the Rome of Julius Caesar. The mere effort of the organism to adapt itself to the strange environment would baffle all its energies and arrest all its functions. You might as well expect a palm tree to flourish in the arctic regions. It would languish and die in the attempt.

Yet there are many worthy people who delight to call themselves old fashioned and are always longing, so they pretend, to live in some other and better age than their own. They make to themselves a paradise of a past they have never known and fondly imagine that were they its Adam and Eve no serpent would ever beguile them into wanting to know the good and the evil of the present. It is a vain aspiration and those who entertain it only succeed, so far as they succeed at all, in getting hopelessly out of touch with their own age.

POPULAR WITH THE FAIR SEX

Strange Fascination Exerted by List Over the Literary Women of His Day.

Though not of a specially passionate temperament, List exercised an irresistible fascination over the enthusiastic literary ladies of his day. They were all at his feet, and he seems always to have had an eye to the main chance, he chose from time to time some lady of high rank as well as mental ability to unite her life with his. The Comtesse d'Aquitaine ("Duchess Stern") and Princess Carolyne Sayn-Wittgenstein were successively the arbiters of his destiny, and Doctor Knapp recounts a good many other episodes more transient if less important. There was a single of great eminence (we are not told who she was) who made her way into his presence in male attire, hopeless of attracting him by other means; she threatened to murder him; and altogether his experience read like a rather crude melodrama.

It is curious that when he was only sixteen his dying father warned him that women would upset and dominate his life. As Doctor Knapp says, "He was neither made to do without a woman nor to remain faithful to one alone."

Indian Superstition.

Dying to order is one of the most sacred customs of the American Indian. Thirty years ago Standing Elk came to Maj. James McLaughlin, the author of "My Friend, the Indian," and said: "Father, my wife will die today, and she wants a coffin from you." The major asked him what the ailment was, and he replied: "Just nothing, but she heard the ghosts calling and must go." Somebody had told her, it turned out, that she was sick, so he had "painted for death," and all her relatives had gathered about her to bemoan her—as Indian custom divides her property as soon as she was dead. There was no use in the major arguing about it, he had the coffin made. In many cases those "painted for death" are actually bulld into dying, but Mrs. Standing Elk was still too vigorous. Finally in despair she carried the coffin into the house on her own shoulders, and several years later the major saw it still standing on end in her house. She has been fitted into it and it was doing duty as a cupboard.

The Growth of Languages.

There is an interesting and from the national point of view a satisfactory statement in the statistics lately published in an Italian paper concerning the growth of modern languages. According to the figures given the English language, which a century ago was spoken by 20,000,000 individuals, is now the means by which no less than 100,000,000 give expression to their views of things. French, on the other hand, has spread less than any of the chief European languages, for whereas it was used by 34,000,000 men at the beginning of the nineteenth century, it is now spoken by 46,000,000. Seventy million individuals speak German today, against 38,000,000 100 years ago; 69,000,000 Russian, against 30,000,000; 32,000,000 Italian, against 18,000,000 and 41,000,000 Spanish against 20,000,000.

Two Evils.

"It must be awful to be caught with the goods on you?" "It's worse to be caught with the goods off you. I forgot three of my wife's errands yesterday."

No Insult.

Ile—I never look at you without thinking of a menagerie. She—Sir! Ile—Yes, your dear face and taper fingers, you know.