

# SCIENCE AND INVENTION

A new growth of trees comes from above, the trunk of a tree does not increase in height. The oldest wood of a tree is in its heart, while the oldest bark is on the outside.

Recent investigation has shown that a bright green line characteristic of the spectrum of the new gas, krypton, is almost certainly identical with the spectroscopic line that characterizes the aurora borealis.

The new French rapid-fire gun, invented by Colonel Humbert, is said to make no flash when fired with smokeless powder. The location of such a gun, concealed in grass or shrubbery, would be completely undiscoverable to an enemy.

At a recent meeting of the Mineralogical Society in London the existence of rubies at Cowie Creek, North Carolina, was discussed, and the opinion of experts was quoted to the effect that these American rubies are comparable in color and brilliance with the finest gems from Burma. The Cowie Creek rubies were first found about fifteen years ago.

By agreement among civilized nations the day is held to begin as the sun crosses an imaginary line drawn through the Pacific Ocean from the North Pole, through Bering straits to the South Pole. The man on the East Cape in Siberia would be the first person to cry "Happy New Year;" the Tonga Islander in the South Pacific would be the second.

There are a few instances of protective mimicry in plants, though in general plants protect themselves by spines, hairs and poisonous secretions. The "Stone Mesembryanthemum" of the Cape of Good Hope resembles the stones among which it grows and thus escapes the notice of wild herbivorous animals. It has also been observed that many plants growing in the stony soil of the Karoo have their tubers so like the stones around them that when the plant is not in leaf one cannot be distinguished from the other.

The people of Japan have shown such adaptability to European ideas that particular interest attaches to the conclusion of a writer in the "Transactions" of the Japan Society that the ancestors of the present inhabitants of Japan built the sepulchral chambers called dolmens in that country. No similar dolmens are found anywhere in Asia until the search comes westward to the shores of the Caspian Sea, "and for more closely allied forms it is necessary to go yet farther to Western Europe." It is shown that the original inhabitants of Japan, the Ainos, were driven out by invaders from whom the present inhabitants are descended.

Professor Lawrence Bruner, who spent the year 1898 investigating the grasshopper plague in Argentina, says that only Australia could match Argentina in the singularity of its life forms. It is a country where everything protects itself. "The trees have thorns, the grasses and weeds are provided with thorns and sharp blades, and herbaceous plants are shielded with burs." Forests exist where rains are scarce, and natives say that sometimes when heavy rains fall the trees die from too much moisture. Some birds, belonging to the same order as our waterfowl, avoid water. Many Argentine birds possess spurs on their wings.

### Corrected in Rhyme.

Thackeray was much pestered by the autograph-hunter, says Hodder in his "Recollections." He disliked above all things to write in an autograph album, and often refused those who asked him to do so, and sometimes rather brusquely.

On one occasion the owner of an album, a young lady, was fortunate. Thackeray took her book to his room in order to look it over. Written on a page he found these lines:

Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains;  
They crowned him long ago;  
But who they got to put it on  
Nobody seems to know.  
—Albert Smith.

Under these lines Mr. Thackeray wrote:

### A Humble Suggestion.

I know that Albert wrote in hurry;  
To criticise I scarce presume;  
But yet methinks that Lindley Murray,  
Instead of "who," had written whom.  
—W. M. Thackeray.

### Comparison of Salaries.

Admiral Dewey's salary amounts to \$37.50 a day, President McKinley's is equal to \$131 a day, Cabinet officers, the Vice President and the Speaker of the House get \$22.22 a day, Senators and Congressmen \$13.90, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court \$29 a day.

### Carrier Pigeons Armed.

In China carrier pigeons are protected from birds of prey by apparatus consisting of bamboo tubes fastened to the birds' bodies. As the pigeon flies the action of the air passing through the tubes produces a shrill whistling sound, which keeps the birds of prey at a distance.

### END OF A SPENDTHRIFT.

Lloyd Aspinwall, Man About Town and Squanderer of a Fortune.

Less than 50, but an old man in appearance, Floyd Aspinwall, once famous as a "sport," died at a New York hotel. For several years he had lived



LLOYD ASPINWALL.

a retired life, because his means would allow no other kind, but there was a time when he equaled Berry Wall and Freddy Gebhardt. He was handsome, clever and rich. He set a pace that few could follow and that sent to the grave long ere he went, the few foolish young men who did go where he led.

Aspinwall's grandfather was a merchant prince of the metropolis—William H. Aspinwall. The son of this man was Gen. Lloyd Aspinwall, soldier and clubman, who left the spendthrift whose death is now chronicled an immense fortune fifteen years ago. The younger Lloyd Aspinwall took to yachts, fast horses, fancy drinks and handsome women and the combination proved as fatal to him as to hundreds of others. He was a favorite in society years ago and married beautiful Cornelia Luton. She left him ere long and died two years ago, their daughter following her within a few days. One cause of the separation of Aspinwall and his wife was his fondness for Lillian Russell, when she was a Casino favorite.

A single survivor with a memory of youthful days called to see him on the day of his death and that was his brother.

### A FAMOUS REFORMER.

George W. Julian Was Once a Candidate for Vice President.

George W. Julian, who died recently at his home in Indianapolis, was a prominent figure in national affairs a third of a century ago. He was a rugged, uncompromising reformer. Born in Indiana eighty-two years ago, he was elected to the legislature of the state at the age of 28. Within a few years he was the free soil leader, and



GEORGE WASHINGTON JULIAN.

for several years served in Congress as a free soil member.

He was an unyielding foe of slavery. In 1852 he was the free soil candidate for vice president. When the Republican party was formed he joined it and in 1860 was sent to Congress. For the next ten years he was a prominent political character in Washington, noted for his unswerving honesty, his bluntness, his slight disposition to be crabbed when opposed, but always having his face set toward the right. He served on the joint committee on the conduct of the war and for eight years was chairman of the committee on public lands. He was re-elected to his seat in Congress four times. The first administration of Grant did not please him, because he believed the Republican party was drifting away from its original aims. In consequence he supported Greeley in 1872, and after that never really returned to the Republican fold.

### The Advantage of One Eye.

During the late Spanish-American war a certain old colonel who had lost an eye at the battle of Gettysburg was very indignant because he was put aside as physically incapacitated, when he applied for admission to one of the New York volunteer regiments.

Filled with wrath and chagrin, the Colonel journeyed to Washington, bent on having a personal interview with the President. He succeeded in gaining an audience, and the President, after listening to his plea, said kindly:

"But, my good Colonel J., you have only one eye!"

"Just so, sir," was the prompt rejoinder; "but can't you see the great advantage of my having only one eye? When I aim my gun I sha'n't have to close the other!"

He fought at Santiago.—Youth's Companion.

### DIMPLES MADE TO ORDER.

Paris Surgeons Devise a Way to Improve on Nature's Handiwork.

The hall mark of beauty lies in those little indentations made presumably by the finger of Cupid, but which so few women possess naturally. Being able to change the shape of the nose or the color of the eyes it follows that science has taken the making of dimples upon its hands and now one of the cleverest surgical operations results with little pain to the patient in a perfect imitation of the indentation wrought by the god of love and beauty himself. Paris originates it, of course.

The modus as practiced by the skilled surgeon who discovered the secret is to draw up the flesh in either chin or cheeks by means of a glass suction tube, of course an infinitesimal amount of cuticle being all that is necessary to thus secure. This done, the portion drawn up by the force of the air is tied with a bit of silk thread, treated with cocaine, and then snipped off with surgeon scissors. The wound is made less painful by dressing until it is thoroughly healed, when the silk thread is removed and the neatest of little holes, the exact replica of a dimple, is there forever.

Of course, laughter has no specific influence upon the made dimple. The



MAKING DIMPLES.

face in repose, in sorrow, in joy, will always be a dimpled one—a drawback that surgery has not yet been able to overcome. The made dimple is not responsive to emotions, but it is a potent factor in the charm of the feminine face.

### "Flag No. 5!"

In the meeting room of Division No. 46 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at Albany, N. Y., is a simple yet touching and appropriate memento of as brave an engine-driver as ever put hand to throttle. This engineer, Edward Kennar, ran engine 238 on the western division of the New York Central Railroad. The Century Magazine tells the story of his heroism.

One April night, as Kennar's train was speeding toward Batavia, the locomotive headlight suddenly flashed upon a mass of moving earth and rock on the track. The train was rushing toward a landslide, of which there had not been the slightest warning. The whistle shrieked "Down brakes!" but it was too late. No. 238 plunged into the heaping debris, and a moment later lay wrecked at the foot of the embankment.

Pinned down by tons of steel, and writhing in the agony of death, was Kennar. Suddenly he seemed to pull together what of life there was left in him. Slightly raising his head, he shrieked—it seemed almost in anger—at those who had gathered about to help him if they could:

"Flag No. 5!"

With those words on his lips he died. "No. 5" was a west-bound train which usually met Kennar's near this point. The warning which he, forgetting his own agony, had given with his dying breath, recalled No. 5's peril to the train-hands, and hurrying back to the track they were in time to flag it.

### Death Mask of Ingersoll.



Taken from the plaster cast made just after death.

### Modest Appeal.

The attention of English-speaking visitors to the Milan Cathedral is readily attracted by the following notice, which appears over an alms-box:

"Appele to Charitables. The Brothers, so-called, of Mercy ask slender arms for the Hospital. They harbor all kinds of diseases, and have no respect to religion."

Duncan McKinnon

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