

UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES

The Ex-Ray as Great a One as When Discovered.

Even the Discoverer, Prof. Roentgen, Can Not Account for the System on Which it Works.

It is six years since Prof. Roentgen passed his new light rays through wood, paper, and flesh, and to this day no one alive understands why, or how, these rays act as they do. In despair, some scientists fell back upon the old theory of light, which was that a radiant substance gave off light as a flower does scent. But, as this idea is totally exploded, the mystery is still as great as ever, and newer discoveries have added to it, instead of clearing it up.

X-rays are a greater miracle than X-rays. By their aid, their discoverer, Alex. Croft, has steered torpedoes at a distance of two and a half miles, and without wires or any connecting medium but the air and water. He made the torpedoes go forward or back, in a curve or a straight line, and sink or rise, exactly as he desired. At two miles distance the X-rays' beam is two hundred yards across, and the torpedo can be controlled anywhere within this area.

To puzzle the average man still more, the Polish scientist Cuire has invented the Becquerel rays, with which he has obtained results which puzzle nobody more than himself. A substance called radium, which he has discovered, has been made to act as a sort of mineral glow-worm. It will store up sunlight, and, even if kept in pitch darkness for five years, be found to gleam with the soft radiance at the end of that time. Becquerel rays pierce not only flesh, but bone. They offer a sure test for distinguishing between true and false diamonds, but are not likely to be largely used for that purpose, as radium costs \$500 an ounce to prepare.

One more mystery of light. By simply spinning a lump of loaf sugar on a lathe, and tapping it rapidly with a small hammer, a constant play of light can be produced; and here, again, is an effect without a known cause.

When M. Tesla came over to this country some years ago, he horrified an assemblage of scientists by transmitting through his own hand and body a current of electricity a hundred times greater than is generally used to kill a criminal. He stood there perfectly unharmed, while a rod, crackling with blue light at the end of the conductor which he held showed the appalling power of the forces he handled so calmly. Asked why he was not instantaneously burnt to a crisp he replied that it was perfectly safe to handle a current if it was alternating electricity. He even offers to transmit through his body the whole energy of the 40,000 horse power obtained from the falls of Niagara. The currents he has actually handled have been sufficient to melt thick iron wires like wax. His experiment is about as much a miracle as anything ever seen.

By means of an instrument made of glass prisms, and called the spectro-scope, scientists have discovered that the sun and moon and all the stars we can see in the skies are made up of similar materials to this of which this earth is composed. Iron, gold, and different elements, produce different dark lines across the rainbow-like play of colors into which the prism divides white light. We know by experiment where the lines of each different substance will be found in the spectrum, and we know that these lines are produced by interference of rays. But why the various substances should produce such rays is another mystery. As in so many other matters, a result has been reached without the cause being understood.

Even so seemingly simple a contrivance as the compass is really a miracle. We have discovered that a magnetized strip of steel swung upon a pivot will point in a certain direction; but why it does is not known for certain, and perhaps never will be. We are aware that the magnetic pole is not always in the same place, but slowly and constantly shifts. We know also that there are parts of the world where the compass will not act at all. At a place called Kotchetowka, in Russia, Prof. Leyst, of Moscow, found that the dipping needle pointed downwards, just as it does at the magnetic poles. And yet there is no iron within 600 feet of the surface of the earth.

The whole subject of magnetism and electricity is full of miracles and mysteries. Man can make young plants grow at nearly double their natural rate by passing a mild current through the soil they are planted in. He can in a similar fashion double the size of cucumbers and cabbage; but he cannot tell why such results are obtainable.

Even more wonderful and mysterious are the results obtained by doctors with electric light. By using rays of a certain kind, the most horrible cases of tumors, or cancer of the face, are being

cured in London and other big cities. The wounds are healed, fresh, clean skin grows over the shocking sores, and after six months' treatment the patient is cured. But no doctor nor anyone else, has the faintest idea how these splendid cures are effected.

Neither can the man of medicine say why it is that keeping a patient suffering from smallpox or measles in a room hung in red has such a wonderful effect in allaying eruption, and in preventing the former disease from leaving its marks upon the face of the sufferer.

The main reason why fresh milk is so expensive as it is, is that it soures so extremely rapidly as to make its carriage to any distance very troublesome. Quite recently it has been discovered that by putting the milk into hollow steel cylinders, and applying great hydraulic pressure, it may be kept perfectly sweet for days. A pressure of seven tons to the square inch for an hour was found to delay souring for seven days; while other samples, kept under a pressure of 15 tons to the inch, were sweet and fresh at the end of a fortnight. Here is another miracle to be pondered over, for how mere pressure can keep a substance from fermenting is not easily understood.—Ex.

FOUND BY A WOMAN

Lost Art of Hardening Copper Discovered by Tacoman.

Tacoma, Aug. 6.—Mrs. Harry Renstrom is preparing to make trouble for the great American steel trust. This comes in the way of the discovery of one of the lost arts, the process of hardening copper, which has been the stalking ghost of the steel industry for a hundred years. Mrs. Renstrom is no theorist or dreamer, but a clear headed, practical woman, who has quietly worked away until now she has produced edged tools of copper that will cut the hardest of wood and hold their edge as well as the best steel. She feels confident that she has solved the problem of hardening copper and thus making edged tools that will drive the steel article out of the market. She has already through an attorney made application to the department at Washington for a patent to protect her rights and will carefully guard her secret until that is gained. Overtures have been made to her from a number of capitalists, among them being J. Pierpont Morgan, negotiating for the purchase of the invention when completed.

Mrs. Renstrom has been working on this process for years and has read everything relative to the matter that has been written. From her study of the matter she has become convinced that the hardening of copper was once a universal art. The American Indians practiced it on Lake Erie, where numerous evidences in the way of copper utensils and cutlery have been found. Among these copper chisels have been picked up that will cut the hardest steel. It is a well known fact that the ancient Romans and Egyptians understood and utilized this process. A returned Filipino soldier recently brought back to Tacoma a bolo knife found in Luzon the blade of which was of hardened copper and possessed a fine edge and was well tempered. These facts have led her to believe that at one time, thousands of years ago, copper was hardened and used for tools and weapons all over the world, and she claims the process was undoubtedly a simple and cheap one, as the ancients had no intricate or costly methods or costly machinery.

Runaway in a Cemetery.
Branford, Conn., Aug. 3.—Mrs. W. N. Smith and Mrs. Sarah Hunt, with Mrs. Mary Munson, of Chicago, were buried out of Mrs. Smith's carriage in the Central cemetery today in a runaway which shattered headstones nearly two centuries old and put all of the women on the verge of nervous prostration.

Mrs. Munson and Mrs. Smith received severe nervous shocks. Mrs. Hunt was thrown out among the tombstones, but received no serious injuries. The horse went tearing through the historic cemetery for a quarter of a mile.

Among the monuments broken or chipped were those erected to J. Harrison, 1819; Timothy Bradley, 1812; Mercy Linsley, 1818; Betsy Blackstone, 1842; Sarah Russell, 1876, and child of James Hale, 1827.

The horse was caught amid a breast-work of uprooted monuments. He was only slightly injured, but the wagon was torn to pieces. The horse took freight at a passing lumber wagon.

Church Social.
Tonight (Wednesday) at 8 o'clock, in the Presbyterian church, Mission street, Rev. G. F. Pringle of Gold Bottom will deliver a short address on Missions. A social time will be spent afterwards, during which a short program of song, etc., will be rendered, and refreshments served. Everybody is cordially invited.

WHITE MEN SUSPICIONED

As Having Perpetrated the Umimak Island Murder.

Seattle, Aug. 6.—The steamer Queen yesterday brought down some further advice regarding the murder of Sullivan brothers and of P. J. Rooney on Umimak Island last June. A passenger tells a story to the effect that two white men—deserters from a fishing schooner—planned and executed the murder for the purpose of robbery. Who the men are is not known. They are said to have been seen on the island at the time of the murder and to have had in their possession a rifle and revolvers formerly belonging to the Sullivan brothers and Rooney. They also showed to Rev. Mr. Scott, one of the men who saw them, about \$1200 in money, which is believed to have been a portion of the \$1500 Con Sullivan had on him at the time of the murder.

On the other hand, however, Owen Jackson, the only surviving member of the Sullivan party, in a sworn statement, says that the killing was done by natives. He tells of the return of the four members of the party to the spot where they had left their tent and provisions and of finding two natives in the act of carrying away the last of their outfit. Florence Murphy followed the men and was shot down. Later, as Jackson and Con Sullivan were running toward the beach, Sullivan was shot through the back. Another bullet hit Rooney in the knee and one went through Jackson's rubber boot. Jackson then left the spot and wandered around for several days, when he was found by a man named Fred Williamson, to whom he reported the murder. Jackson is sure that the men who committed the murder were natives, but admits the possibility of being mistaken.

J. C. Reilly Dead.

J. C. Reilly, known at Dawson, Nome, Seattle and all over Alaska, the founder or first promoter of the Arctic Brotherhood, died recently at Nome. He was one of the survivors of the schooner Jane Grey, when so many passengers and members of the crew were lost off Cape Platter.

Mr. Reilly was found dead in his room at the Bolega lodging house at Nome. He went there recently from Dawson ailing in health. Dr. Hill pronounced that death was due to valvular disease of the heart.

The funeral of J. C. Reilly took place on Sunday, July 21 last, from the Masonic Hall, under the auspices of the Arctic Brotherhood. There was a large attendance of members and Judge Hannum, the Grand Arctic Chief, presided. W. C. Hayner had embalmed the remains which were interred for the present, but it is believed that the parents in the East will wish their son to find his final resting place at home.

Reilly was the son of a wealthy contractor of Hartford, Conn., who is still living. He was 43 years of age and some ten years ago achieved celebrity on the stage under the name of Walter Weldon. He was one of the passengers of the ill-fated Jane Grey, and was rescued hours after the wreck by Major Ingraham, who was on a steam launch and heard him call from a raft for help.

Reilly owned Nos. 1 and 2 on Eldorado in the Klondike, and left claims in Nome which prospectured well. It was while on a trip North on the City of Seattle that Reilly first thought of and wrote out a brief outline of the organization now known all over the North as the Arctic Brotherhood.—Seattle Times, Aug. 6.

The latest novelty—indelible photos, printed on handkerchiefs, spreads, pillow covers, etc. Cantwell, photographer, Third street opposite N. C. Co. Latest Kodak finishing at Goetzman's.

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