

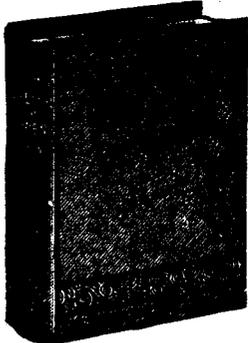


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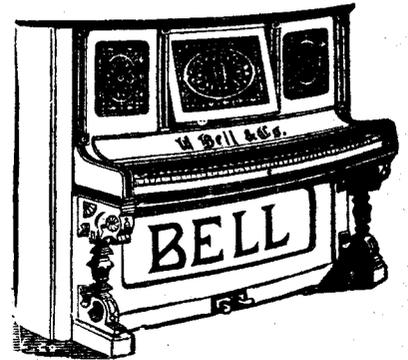
Messrs. Sarasin and De la Rive read a paper before the French Academy of Science showing that the velocity of propagation of electrical waves was the same in the air and conducting wires. The experiments were made in a very large hall in Geneva, with the aid of very large metallic surfaces, and by the method of interferences. They also proved that a circular resonator has a constant wave length independent of the dimensions of the oscillator, the intensity of oscillation alone varying. The quarter of a wave length of a circular resonator is very nearly equal to twice its diameter. A short description of their experiments may be found in L'Electricien, January 21.—Electrical World, February 18.

The Sydney correspondent of the Western Daily Mercury states that H.M.S. Curacoa arrived there from Samoa and the Polynesian Islands, having been absent about six months. While passing through the Yandi waters she struck on an unknown rock, but, fortunately, without any serious consequences. The spot where she struck is marked on the chart as having twelve fathoms of water. Thanks to the rising tide, she was got off the rock in about an hour's time, and an examination of her bottom by the ship's divers showed that, beyond the tearing off of a sheet or two of copper, no damage had been sustained. The ship was afterwards anchored near by and a survey of the spot made.

The report of Mr. G. J. Symons, F. R. S., on the rainfall of 1892, shows that it was an average quantity, without exceptional wet anywhere. The rainfall of August was generally above the average; but in September it was excessive in the Lake regions and in the West of Scotland. The records, however, show the same old fact against those who foretell the weather: at Seahwaite, Cumberland, a total fall of 129.5 inches was registered, and only 20.72 inches at Winslow, Bucks. In Mr. Symon's list there are more minus than plus marks, the greatest excess in England being at Bury St. Edmunds. The rainfall was very heavy in the eastern counties during October; but the weather prophets did not foretell that. The planets do not seem to have much control over the weather even in a little place like England, while they appear to be in regular opposition to the almanack prophets, and in conjunction with those who laugh at the efforts of the vaticinators.—English Mechanic.

An enlightened Bengali, Babu Govind Chandra Laha, has contributed fifteen thousand rupees towards the expenses of the proposed snake laboratory at Calcutta. We may expect, therefore, that the institution will soon be in full working order. According to the Pioneer Mail, two main lines of research will be followed in the laboratory. So-called cures for snake-bites will be tested under strictly scientific conditions, and the properties of the snake poison as such will be investigated. The laboratory will be the only institution of its kind in the world, and the Committee of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens, who have taken the matter in hand, expect that it will be largely resorted to by the scientific inquirers who visit India during cold weather. In accordance with the practice of scientific laboratories in Europe, a charge will be made for the use of the tablets and instruments at a rate sufficient to cover working expenses. Work done on behalf of the Government will also be charged for according to a regular scale.—Nature.

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