

Notes and Comments.

Some of the "advanced" personages are talking about opening communication with Mars as a fitting advancement with which to usher in the early years of the new century. Flags are suggested by one or two persons, and Tesla's wireless telegraphy, with which he has accomplished very little thus far, is mentioned by others as a fitting way in which to get up a correspondence between the inhabitants of the earth and those of its nearest big neighbor on the outside circuit of the planetary system, if that body has any inhabitants. The difficulties in the way of these schemes may or may not be taken into the account by their authors, but it is apparent that the twentieth century must do something spectacular in the astronomical department to keep up with the work of the nineteenth century in this field.

On the first day of the nineteenth century—that is, on January 1, 1801, the Italian astronomer, Piazzi, discovered Ceres, the first one found of the planetoids, or asteroids, between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Several hundreds of them have been found since. Hal discovered two satellites of Mars in 1877, and Barnard, in 1892, added one to the four moons of Jupiter. A great number of comets were discovered during the century, the orbits of many previously discovered comets were more accurately marked out, and the periods and the causes of the "star showers" were determined. Leverrier and Adams, by a calculation of the disturbances, in the motion of Uranus, then the exterior one of all the known planets, pointed out the existence of another and remotest body in 1845, which Galle, directed by Leverrier, traced out in the sky in 1846. This body, which has been named Neptune, marks to the present day, the remotest outpost of the empire of the sun.

Assuredly something sensational will have to be done in the sphere of astronomy in the twentieth century if the work of the nineteenth is to be surpassed. But even this scheme of opening communication with Mars is not new. It was proposed many years ago, and scores of persons believed in those days in its feasibility. Thomas Dick, a long-forgotten writer on astronomical and other scientific subjects, and who wrote with far greater eloquence and fervor on any subject which he touched at all than any of the present day Martians can command, suggested more than sixty years ago many devices whereby, as he thought, communication might be opened from the steppes of Russia and the prairies of America with the inhabitants of Mars—and he was firmly convinced that Mars and all the other planets, and even the sun and the comets, had inhabitants. Dick's faith in this particular is not shared by the average astronomer of to-day, but there is a possibility that conquests will be made in the sphere of astronomy in the present century more spectacular than any of which Dick or any other person of his day ever dreamed.

Major Serpa Pinto, the fourth explorer to cross tropical Africa from sea to sea, died in Portugal last week. Four months earlier a Captain in the Belgian Army named Lemaire completed the thirty-third journey across the continent and the fact was barely announced in the newspapers. Both these men have done great work in African exploration; and the fact that the Portuguese soldier won enduring fame by a single journey while the Belgian soldier with an equally striking record of substantial achievement, is almost unknown, illustrates the changed conditions of African research. Africa is the dark continent no longer. The romantic era of African exploration has passed. Serpa Pinto was one of the pioneers who threw a glimmer of light upon a land of mystery. Charles Lemaire is merely the last of a long line of successful explorers. He was trained by long African service for the crowning achievement he has just completed. He travelled from the Zambesi to the Congo without harming a native—would that Serpa Pinto might have made such a record; but Lemaire crossed a continent that is gridironed by the routes of explorers. He was sent there not to find new tribes or to reveal great geographical mysteries, but to carry out the more prosaic task of fixing the line of water parting between the Congo and the Zambesi systems. He did his work well and the maps will benefit by it, but there is no more talk about his achievement than about the result of a summer's campaign in the Rocky Mountains of a Geological Survey party.

Serpa Pinto's predecessors in the modern era of African travel were Livingstone, Cameron and Stanley. Except the books written by Livingstone and Stanley, no contributions to the history of the transcontinental journeys in Africa have been so widely read as the book which Serpa Pinto wrote. His "How I Crossed Africa" was translated into many

languages. It was a record not only of original discovery but of fierce battling with the natives, of hair-breadth escapes, of perils from wild beasts, of dangers from starvation and of the final depletion of all his resources. He probably would never have emerged from the fever-breeding swamps of the upper Zambesi if he had not reached the isolated missionary Coillard, who, under his thatched roof, nursed the destitute wanderer back to strength and hopefulness. No wonder his story was thrilling, for in that long journey from Benguela, November, 1877, to Durban, March, 1879, of one year and four months, Serpa Pinto fought his way about a fourth of the distance; and along his route, which was, for the most part, considerably west of that which Livingstone had followed, he found many interesting tribes, including dwarfs, and gave the world its first idea of an important part of the upper Zambesi basin. Most of the geographical societies bestowed upon him their highest honors; and he deserved them.

He was undoubtedly deficient in the tact that enabled Livingstone and not a few other explorers to make far longer journeys in Africa without bringing suffering upon the natives. He belonged to the ranks of explorers militant and the natives had to suffer. In later years, the missionary traveler Arnot wandered almost alone but in perfect safety over much of the ground where Serpa Pinto had fought his way. At the same time, Serpa Pinto was a scientific explorer, which is more than can be said of most pioneers in geographical research; and it was his superior qualifications as an accurate observer that were fittingly and generously recognized by the geographers of the world.

WISE SAYINGS.

Wealth changes some men more than age.
Borrowing is not much better than begging.
A sermon over 20 minutes long is a clerical error.
A brave man hazards life, but not his conscience.

To see what is right and not do it is want of courage.

A chill air surrounds those who are down in the world.

If the blind lead the blind they will both go to the pit.

Advertising is the lever that moves the business world.

A man may be fast asleep, but rather slow when awake.

Necessity is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.

Mothers can do more to help save the world than preachers.

No one can be as gentle as the rough man who meets a real lady.

A lightning calculator is not a man who predicts thunderstorms.

No toil, no hardship can restrain ambitious men inured to pain.

An artist is not a success until he can draw a check on the bank.

The microscope never bothers the man who is unaware of its existence.

Partial culture runs to the ornate, extreme culture to simplicity.

A great deal of talent is lost in the world for want of a little courage.

One reward of genius is that the petty affairs of life pass unnoticed.

Perseverance is failing nineteen times and succeeding the twentieth.

A man's house is his castle if his wife's mother doesn't happen to be around.

To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.

Nothing can constitute good breeding that has not good-nature for its foundation.

When a man assumes a public trust he should consider himself public property.

A genius is a man who does things that other people say it is impossible to do.

The person who remains cold to our pet hobbies always appears strangely stupid.

The pain experienced in having a tooth pulled is made easier by a little yelling.

Many a man doesn't care what a tailor charges for clothes—just so he charges it.

You can advertise for a missing friend, but you can't find a lost friendship that way.

Education is a very good thing when it does not unfit a man for working for a living.

The desire of knowledge, like the thirst of riches, increases ever with the acquisition of it.

One of the best effects of thorough intellectual training is a knowledge of our own capacity.

To make sure of popularity in any walk of life one has only to digest the wisdom of neutrality.

Nature has written a letter of credit on some men's faces which is honored wherever presented.

Every person has two educations, one which he receives from others and one, more important, which he gives himself.

According to the laws of strict construction the woman who insists on her husband getting up to start the fire is guilty of making incendiary speeches.

RANCHING IN THE WEST.

THE RANGES CONFINE THEMSELVES TO THE CHINOOK BELT.

How Cattle Raising is Carried on in the Canadian North-West—An Important Industry—Cattle Imported From the East.

Eastern Canada knows little as to the extent and importance of the cattle ranges in our great west. The range country has no definite limits but may be described as lying within the south-west and are strongest at the base of the Rocky Mountains. They confine themselves to a certain strip of country, not going as far north as Edmonton, and their eastern limit being about Swift Current, Western Assiniboia. All winter these occur at frequent intervals, licking up the snow and changing the temperature from away below zero to that of spring. Owing to this and the fact that the grass in the summer is cured by the sun and turned into good hay as it stands, cattle are able to graze on the prairie all winter.

Ranching is getting to be a very important industry in Western Canada, and people are rapidly coming in from the old country, eastern Canada and the Western States in order to start the cattle business. Already parts of the country, though to appearance sparsely settled, are pretty well filled up, as cattle require a lot of land on which to range.

When a man decides to start a ranch he first rides well over the district he intends to settle in and after diligent enquiry from the neighboring ranchers, the nearest of whom is often several miles away, finally locates in a place where there are good grass, shelter, and most important of all, a plentiful supply of water.

Stock is being constantly improved, thoroughbred bulls from eastern Canada being brought out. Short-horns are held in high esteem, Highland cattle being found to endure cold weather very well. Many of the original cows in the country came from the south, and cattle have been gradually bred up and improved on from them. Notwithstanding this, Canadian ranchmen have a lot to do before our beef will compare with that from the cattle ranges in the western states.

they start off. Each man has his "string" of saddle horses, riding two or three fresh horses daily. They scour the country, gathering up a big herd of cattle, these being driven to some point, when they are separated and handed over to their respective owners. These trips sometimes last for two weeks, and a captain is chosen to conduct them. Needless to say, it is every western boy's ambition to go on the round-up.

"Dogie" is the name applied to cattle brought in from Manitoba and Ontario. This is to distinguish them from the western range cows. Large numbers of these young cattle are shipped west every summer, and ranchmen say it pays far better to buy these young "stockers" than to breed their own calves. These yearlings may be bought for about \$15 a head, often for much less, and after being fed hay during the first winter are allowed to "rustle" for themselves and consequently are no expense. At from three to four years old they are sold as beef cattle for from \$40 to \$50 and over.

Large shipments of beef are made to Great Britain every fall, and the ranchman is never at a loss for a market if he has good beef, as the buyers go right to the ranches. Winnipeg is the great centre and collective point for cattle consigned to the old country, the big firm of Gordon & Ironside, handling the bulk of the export cattle. It is said about 37,000 head were shipped there last summer and fall, so one can imagine the scene of bustle and confusion that confronts the spectator at the Winnipeg stockyards.

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WHAT SCIENCE HAS DONE.

WAR ON THE MICROBE HAS ADDED YEARS TO OUR LIVES.

Valuable Discoveries of Pasteur and Lord Lister—The Benefits of Chloroform—Medicine Has Kept Pace With Surgery—Anti-Toxin Has Lowered Death Rate.

We hear a good deal about the good old days, but in reality the length of an Englishman's life is much greater now than it was half a century ago. If we take the whole population of the United Kingdom at forty-three millions, about 340,000,000