

TO THE SOUTH POLE

EXPEDITIONS A FOOT EXPLORING ANTARCTIC REGION.

Problems Which Explorers Are Trying to Solve in the Interests of Science and Human Curiosity.

Three, if not four, expeditions, are expected to be in the antarctic area again within the next 18 months.

The problem is to be attacked on the American side of the antarctic by Lieut. Michael Barne, of the Discovery.

If, as some of the students of the antarctic problem conjecture, the extent of land in the south polar region is about 3,500,000 square miles, these lands are about as large as the United States, including Alaska.

Every spring there occurs at Harvard college a curious convention of the old clothes, as it might be called.

The affair is conducted by an undergraduate organization known as the Student Volunteer association.

During the week of the collection, says Modern Women, the old Harvard Yard is full of moving bundles.

LIKE A CARGO OF SNOW.

Steamer Brings in Load of Salt from Sicily Which Looked Wintry.

Looking down over the high hatch-way coming into the after hold of a steamer discharging at an East river wharf up by the Grand street ferry,

They had already got out the bulk of it from immediately under the hatchway and almost down to the vessel's floor.

From the steamer's forward hatch, at the same time and in like manner,

It was salt, the snowy white cargo with which from stem to stern this steamer was loaded.

To one whose ideas of salt were confined to the trifling quantities of it that he saw in shakers and salt cellars on the table.

She Was Forehanded.

A wealthy Parisian, tired of supporting his nephew, determined to get him married off and settled.

He called upon a matrimonial bureau and looked over his album of candidates for husbands.

He reproached her and demanded an explanation "I do not deny it," she said.

He said, "but it was last year, when, as you know, dearst, you had been given up by all the doctors."

WHY CHAMPAGNE IS HIGH.

Trouble Involved in the Making Makes the Wine Worth Its Price.

From eggnogg the talk drifted to champagne.

"It's worth the money," said the bartender, "considering the trouble it takes to make it."

"First there's the blending of the grape juice. Three parts of black to one of white grape juice are blended with tremendous care.

"Then the liquid is put in casks and refined—a long and difficult process.

"Next it is bottled and placed in a warm room to ferment. While fermenting it must be watched daily.

"When the sediment has all mounted to the neck of the bottles, they are opened and the sediment is allowed to shoot out.

"Even now the champagne is not done. It is 'raw' at this stage. To it a liqueur of brandy and sugar must be added—four per cent. of liquor for the driest brands, 15 or 20 per cent. for the sweet ones.

"Altogether, a bottle of champagne goes through 200 different operations and consumes in its perfecting 2 1/2 years of time.

"The bottles are placed in racks and turned five times a day for three weeks to bring up the sediment.

"When the sediment has all mounted to the neck of the bottles, they are opened and the sediment is allowed to shoot out.

HARVARD'S OLD CLOTHES.

Cast Off Garments of Students Distributed Through Charitable System.

Every spring there occurs at Harvard college a curious convention of the old clothes, as it might be called.

The affair is conducted by an undergraduate organization known as the Student Volunteer association.

During the week of the collection, says Modern Women, the old Harvard Yard is full of moving bundles.

Local physicians were inclined to deride Dr. Sorgnac's theory that the white plague of modern times started with the importation of mummies.

Washington, Prof. H. W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry of the agricultural department, made public an exposition of the extent of food adulteration in this country.

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DISEASE IN MUMMIES

ANCIENT WRAPPINGS CONTAIN TUBERCULAR BACILLI.

White Plague Said to Have Been Carried to Europe from Egypt with First Corpses Transported.

Chicago. — "Egyptology Versus Health" was the title of a monograph received at the Tuberculosis Institute of Chicago in a recent afternoon.

The monograph was written by Dr. Raffaele Sorgnac, one of the lecturers at the Sorbonne in Paris, who was an interested visitor at the recent tuberculous exhibit in the city.

"That the disinterred mummies started the spread of the tuberculosis in Egypt cannot be doubted," says Dr. Sorgnac in his monograph.

"Championing did much for the world when he discovered the key to the hieroglyphs, but loosened death on the world when he caused the mummies to be disinterred.

"These germs live for thousands of years, as has easily been proven, and the exhumation of the bodies, even the well-preserved ones, caused an epidemic of consumption among the workmen and scholars who first exhumed the cases.

"The start of tuberculosis in France in a serious sense may be traced to the great importation of mummies and mummy cases at the time of the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt and this start gave the disease its first great foothold in Europe, whence it has spread all over the western world.

"The bacilli from the mummies are undoubtedly of great age and it has been shown by experiments in Paris that these aged bacilli are infinitely more deadly than those obtained from the sputum of live persons who are infected.

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THE GREATEST ERUPTION.

It Is Long Since Lava Flowed So Far Down the Southern Slope of Vesuvius.

In all the eruptions of the nineteenth and the opening of the twentieth centuries the lava of Vesuvius never flowed so far down the southern slope as it has within the past few days, says the New York Sun.

We must go back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries for the counterparts of the present flow. In those centuries perhaps even wider streams than those of the recent eruption touched the present site of Bosco Treccase and nearly approached the sea.

The lava stream has reached the town of Ottajano, near the foot of the northeastern slope of the mountain. Of course, the entire mountain was built up by lava flows, but we have no record in the past three centuries of any streams flowing in the direction of this place.

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BURNING MINES OF UTAH.

Veins of Coal That Have Been Abandoned Since They Were Discovered by White Men.

Through a long line of cliffs from Colorado to central Utah, and then southwest toward Arizona, extensive beds of coal are found, and recent geological investigations into the coal formation of the far west has developed what may be termed burning mountains, or coal beds, a fire with surface indications of constant combustion for ages past.

These coal beds of Utah are somewhat widely separated, and even the known fields have been comparatively little explored, therefore very little is known of their productive area.

The edges of these beds come to the surface in these cliffs nearly 1,000 feet above the bordering desert, and in ages past this coal has burned into the mountain cliffs until smothered by the accumulations of ashes and covering of superincumbent rocks. In places the heat of this burning coal has been so intense as to melt the rocks.

From surface appearances the fires have gone out in these cliffs, but at one point in the canyon of Prince river, where the coal is being mined, the rocks are found to be uncomfortably hot and the miners were compelled to retire for fear the fires would again break out.

Other coal fields lie in the desert west of Green river. At two places near tributaries of the Fremont river the coals are burning, and have been without cessation since they were discovered by the earliest explorer. The origin of these fires has been the subject of much speculation.

Three explanations are commonly heard among the Mormons, who inhabit this peculiar country where the mountains burn.

One explanation is that lightning has by chance struck the edges of these coal beds at various times since these mountains were lifted up.

Another is that forest fires racing in the mountains came in contact with exposed coal. The more thoughtful point out that the forests in this desolate region are too sparse for forest fires to occur.

Still another and more common explanation is that the Indians built their campfires under the protecting ledges of the mountains against the coal, and it was thus ignited. They point to the fact that there are ruins of the habitations of cliff dwellers here, and that in their day the coals began to burn.

THUNDERBOLT SHEATH.

"Lightning Hole" Made by Decent of Shaft into the Earth.

The following is one of the interesting and valuable bits of information so often to be found in the scientific American.

"Did you ever see the diameter of a lightning flash measured?" asked a geologist. "Well, here is the case which one included a flash of lightning striking it exactly so that you can just see how big it was. This is called a fulgurite, or lightning hole, and the material it is made of is glass. I will tell you how it was manufactured, though it took only the fraction of a second to form it."

"When a bolt of lightning strikes a bed of sand it plunges downward into the sand for a distance, less or greater, transforming simultaneously into glass the silica material through which it passes. Thus, by its great heat, it forms at once a glass tube of precisely its own size. Now and then such a tube, known as a fulgurite, is found and dug up."

Fulgurites have been followed into the sand by excavation for nearly 30 feet. They vary in interior diameter from the size of a quill to three inches or more, according to the force of the flash. But fulgurites are not always produced in sand; they very naturally in solid rocks, though very frequently existing merely as a thin, glassy coating on the surface. Such fulgurites occur in astonishing abundance on the summit of Little Ararat, in Armenia. The rock is soft, and so porous that blocks a foot long can be obtained perforated in all directions by little tubes filled with bottle green glass formed from the fused rock."

Fish-Eating Butterflies.

The butterfly was blue and transparent. As though blue glass its tiny heart could be seen beating inside its body, and the professor read a newspaper article through its lovely blue wings. "This," he said, "is the peropoda, a Mediterranean butterfly. It eats fish. It eats fish. On its tongue are rows of pointed hooks. They serve as teeth. This beautiful creature would turn up its nose at a garden of roses and lilies, but it would feast eagerly upon a putrid fish. Now and then a peropoda is found on the Florida or the California coast. It is only abundant, though, in the Mediterranean."

Unusual Fallor.

"Jimmy's got a great scheme to get out of school on these nice days."

"How does he work it?"

"He goes out and washes his face at recess, and the teacher thinks he's sick and sends him home."—Cleveland Leader.

Bent the Bell.

The fire commission of New Britain, Conn., have decided to continue to rent a church bell rather than buy one, on account of the exceedingly high price of bell metal at present.

OLD LEE BIBLE RESTORED.

Daughter of Confederate General Recovers Volume Lost During Civil War.

Washington.—A Bible which belonged to Martha Washington and which was taken from the home of the Lee family at Arlington, Va., has been restored to Miss Mary Curtis Lee, daughter of Gen. Robert E. Lee, by G. W. Kendrick, Jr., of Philadelphia.

It is supposed that the Bible was stolen from Arlington some time during the civil war. It came into Mr. Kendrick's possession many years ago through purchase from a man of the name of Stein. Mr. Kendrick handed it to Miss Lee recently.

The Bible was printed in London in 1702 by "Charles Bell and the executors of Thomas Newcombe, deceased, printers to the King's Most Excellent Majesty." It is bound in black leather and is in an excellent state of preservation. The earliest birth recorded in it is that of Fanny Parks Curtis, in 1710. The birth is also recorded of Daniel Park Curtis, 1711, and there is a record of his marriage to Martha Dandridge, who afterward became the wife of George Washington. There is no record of the marriage of Gen. Washington and Mrs. Curtis. In the book are many pressed leaves and flowers placed there by members of the Lee family.

GETS SECOND BAPTISM.

Old "Auntie" in Pastor's Family Accidentally Takes Another Immersion.

Owensboro, Ky.—Despite the fact that she was baptized more than 40 years ago, Aunt Mary Washington was recently rebaptized at the First Christian church, the other day.

Aunt Mary is an aged negro nurse employed by Rev. R. P. Crossfield, pastor of the church. She took the cross-field child to church and it was the first time she had been in the edifice.

One of the ushers directed her to the nursery. Aunt Mary misunderstood the directions and entered the door to the baptismal pool. It was very dark in the room and she plunged head first into water four feet in depth. The congregation was suddenly startled by a loud splash, accompanied by screams for help.

Circuit clerk Bedford was the hero of the occasion. He ran to the baptismal room. He ruined a new suit by wading in the pool and rescuing the corpulent negro woman. She was removed to the dressing room and quickly revived.

As the Christian church does not believe in infant baptism the members of the congregation are congratulating Mrs. Washington on the fact that the nurse did not have the infant in her arms when she plunged in the pool.

MISSING FOR THIRTY YEARS.

Wills in Old Bank Vault Brought to Light After Three Decades.

New Orleans.—Three wills, drawn up more than 30 years ago and put in a bank box which lay for more than 30 years in the old vault of the Canal bank building, recently demolished, were brought to light when the old box, which was taken out some time ago, was opened in order that an inventory of its contents might be made.

The bank box was