

Science AND INVENTION

The liquefaction of gelatin in old canned meats has been found by Dr. Brixon to be due to bacteria. As animals were poisoned both by injection and feeding, he concludes that canned meats that splash on being shaken are dangerous unless boiled before use.

The Harvard Observatory announces the discovery, by Professor Wendell, that the asteroid Iris, which was first seen in 1847, exhibits a variation of light resembling that of the new asteroid Eros, which was discovered in 1898. The periodic change in the light of Iris takes place in about six hours, and amounts to two or three-tenths of a magnitude, which is much less than the amount of change exhibited by Eros.

A new method of producing artificial respiration is claimed by Professor Shafer, of Edinburgh, to be much more effective in cases of drowning and asphyxiation than any other. Placing the subject in a prone position, the operator applies pressure with his hands to the lower ribs, and repeats this about thirteen times a minute by swinging himself backward and forward. The common moving the subject's arms is condemned as of little value.

This descriptive phrase is suggested by the grotesque appearance of an animal recently added to the collection of the New York Zoological Park, the blue gnu. It has been said to have the tail and hind quarters of a horse, the legs of a deer, the neck and horns of a buffalo, and a nondescript head which gives it a most fantastic look. The oddity of its appearance is increased by the extraordinary postures it assumes when disturbed. It comes from South Africa.

The old question of the origin of the extreme saltiness of the Dead Sea has received a new answer. William Ackroyd, after showing that the soil and rocks can have furnished but a fraction of the quantity of salt that has collected in the Dead Sea basin, proceeds to argue that the most important source of supply of this salt is atmospheric transportation by winds from the Mediterranean. This view he thinks is confirmed by the fact that the ratio of chlorine to bromine in the Dead Sea is the same as in the Mediterranean.

The perspectograph is an ingenious instrument with which Otto Elchenberger, of Geneva, makes it easy for the amateur artist to give accurate perspective to landscapes or drawings of any objects. A folding box opens to form a table, and near the top of its extensible sides a telescope is so mounted that as it is moved about in following the details of any view a pencil is made to draw a corresponding line on a sheet of paper beneath. Crossed hairs in the telescope give precision, while the pencil is kept upon the paper by sliding up and down in a suitable holder. Beautiful drawings are made with little or no practice, and specimen work exhibited includes a panorama of the Alps and a view of Geneva.

It is reported from Canadian sources that the government of the Province of Ontario is considering the advisability of withdrawing from sale or lease the yet unsold nickel lands within its territory, and reserving them for the use of the British imperial government in the manufacture of armor plate and guns. The Ontario nickel deposits, and those of the island of New Caledonia, a French penal colony in the South Pacific Ocean, are at present the world's most prolific sources of nickel. The metal is not widely distributed. But in Austria a process has been discovered for the manufacture of bronze, which is said to be equal to nickel-steel for making great guns, and the Austrian government has decided to continue the use of bronze instead of nickel-steel for that purpose.

STORY OF STRANGE BATTLE.

Runaway Slaves Resist Attempt to Capture Them by Soldiers.

On Aug. 24, 1816, occurred a unique and but little known battle, in which within the Spanish boundary, United States forces, with Indian allies, after the conclusion of our war with Great Britain, which we call the war of 1812, fought against negroes using British ammunition and having, like us, Indian allies, says the Chattanooga Times.

Colonel Nichols, a British commander, had built on the east bank of the Apalachicola River (where Fort Gadsden afterward stood) a fort for a refuge for runaway negroes, that they, with Indians, might attack the frontier settlers. It was garrisoned with British and became an Indian rendezvous and fugitive negro slaves settled for some fifty miles along the river, leaving the governments of Spain and of our country, but it does not appear that they ever attacked the frontier.

After the war of 1812 closed the British withdrew their garrison, but left the fort in possession of the negroes. These had Indian allies, and a

negro, Garcia, was their leader. The Chattahoochee and Flint form the Apalachicola at the Florida and Georgia boundary, and the fort commanded the Apalachicola and Flint and was a refuge for runaway slaves and a menace to the border settlers. It was on a high bluff projecting into the river, a deep swamp in the rear, and a creek above and below. A parapet fifteen feet high and eighteen feet thick and nine pieces of artillery supplemented the natural advantages. There was plenty of ammunition in the two magazines and the British had left 3,000 stands of arms. But the result showed how feeble are such defenses in the hands of men who do not know how to use them.

Who were the aggressors may never be positively known. We have only our own side of the story. Colonel Clinch, United States army, at Camp Crawford, above, on the Chattahoochee, was expecting provisions, stores and artillery from Apalachicola Bay, and had instructions to reduce the fort in case it opposed their passage. He started down stream in boats with 116 men, in two companies, under Major Muhlenburg and Captain Taylor, encountering on the way a slave-hunting party of Creek Indians under Major McIntosh, on their way to capture the negroes for their owners. These were joined by another party, and the Indians agreed to co-operate with Clinch. Information was received that Garcia and a Choctaw chief had been down the bay and claimed to have killed some Americans and captured a boat. Clinch's force landed near the fort, the Indians were placed to prevent communication and an irregular fire kept up, to which the bested replied ineffectively with artillery. It is said that some days before some Indian chiefs had demanded the fort's surrender, and that the commander said he had been put in command by the British and intended to sink any American vessels trying to pass, and would blow up the fort when unable to hold it, after which he had hoisted the red flag with the British Jack above. This story may have been invented or enlarged, for Americans under the circumstances would be disappointed at lacking an excuse for attack, and McIntosh was on a slave hunt.

The vessels below came up within four miles, a place was chosen for a battery opposite the fort, the forces of Muhlenburg and Taylor were also placed on the west bank, McIntosh and the Indians with some Americans invested the rear and on the morning of the 24th two gunboats took position in front of the battery and fire was opened on them from a thirty-two pounder in the fort, the reply to which was so successful that speedily a hot shot exploded one of the fort's magazines, after which the defense was impracticable. The garrison of about 100 effectives included about twenty-five Choctaws. Of the women and children, over 200 in number, not more than fifty escaped the explosion. The besiegers suffered no loss. The affair reads like a fight in the Philippines.

A council of Indians condemned Garcia and the Choctaw chief to death for the previous murder of the Americans. The Spanish negro fugitives were delivered to the Spanish agent, the American to Colonel Clinch for their owners. A Seminole party coming down the river to help the fort heard of its fall and went home.

"Don't Forget."

Many years ago, writes Thomas Bailey Aldrich in "Pongapog Papers," a novel Boston publisher used to keep a large memorandum book on a table in his private office. The volume always lay open, and was in no manner a private affair, being the receptacle of nothing more important than hastily scribbled reminders to attend to this thing or the other.

It chanced one day that a very young, unfledged author, passing through the city, looked in upon the publisher, who was also the editor of a famous magazine. The unfledged had a copy of verses secreted about his person. The publisher was absent, and young Milton sat down and waited.

Presently his eye fell upon the memorandum book, lying there spread out like a morning newspaper, and almost in spite of himself he read, "Don't forget to see the binder," "Don't forget to mail E. his contract," "Don't forget H.'s proofs," and so forth.

An inspiration seized upon the youth. He took a pencil, and at the tail of this long list of "don't forgets" he wrote, "Don't forget to accept A.'s poem."

He left his manuscript on the table and disappeared. That afternoon, when the publisher glanced over his memoranda, he was not a little astonished at the last item; but his sense of humor was so strong that he did accept the poem—it required a strong sense of humor to do that—and sent the laud check for it, although the verses remain to this day unprinted.

Can Claim Damage.

In Mexico the family of a dead duelist can claim support from the person who shot him.

The masculine idea of an intellectual woman is the one who is as thin as a match and wears glasses.

A WONDERFUL WOMAN.

Ida M. Tarbell, the Most Conspicuous Figure in American Letters.

Ida M. Tarbell is the most conspicuous figure in American letters to-day. The biographer of Lincoln and Napoleon, of Mme. de Stael and Mme. Roland and the historian of the Standard Oil Company, holds a place unique in literature. Her life and accomplishments are a monument to the possibilities open for woman in the present day.

She is interested in the mass condition of the world, its desires, its necessities, its social inequalities. To the condition of the laborer, the advancement of women and the protection of children she is devoting much of her thought. Her leisure time is devoted to working up such historical, biographical and literary material as will best serve to influence the world in the direction which she thinks will be most beneficial.

Although born of parents who were thoroughly able to support her and who were opposed to her working, she was nevertheless convinced that personal freedom and individuality were to be obtained by her own efforts, and consequently early set herself the task of earning her own living.

From a farm in Erie county, Penn., she went to Titusville, where her father was engaged in the oil industry, and she decided that she wished to fit herself to be a teacher. She graduated from the Titusville high school with that intention.

Thus the historian of the Standard Oil Company was a youthful witness of its operations. Titusville was in the very heart of the oil region. Great "strikes" made great fortunes there in amazingly short time. All the hardships of the prospectors, all the struggles of the producers, the troubles with the refiners and the dealings of the Rockefeller interests with the railroads were here spread dramatically before her.

She spent four years at college and then went to act as preceptress of a seminary at Roland, Ohio. She did not remain long. She did some writing for the Chautauquan and finally became its managing editor. After six years in this work she took up historical writing.

ELECTRIC CURRYING.

Electric currying is said to be the latest thing in exclusive equine circles, and leaders of the most pronounced "horsey" notions and conceits are said to have decided to use no other method of cleaning in the future.

"Why, look a-here, young feller," said an old horseman the other day, as he addressed a New York Tribune reporter, "that there mare o' mine, an' she's about as slick as any in these parts, if I do tell it—she couldn't no



CURRYING BY ELECTRICITY.

more git along without that there currying than she could without oats.

"How does it act? Well, now, here, you just come along with me," and he led the way to the stable where two hostlers were giving a stout road horse an electric currying.

To the ceiling were secured two small dynamos. From each long, flexible tubes depended, and attached to each of these was a small brush, buzzing around in a dizzying whirl, after the fashion of the buzzers which seem to the victim in the dentist's chair like overgrown sawmills set at liberty. All the men had to do was to keep moving the brushes about, and with the invasion of such new portion of the animal's anatomy dirt and dust were sent flying from the hair of the horse. Both men and animal seemed to be enjoying the experience immensely.

Facing the Future.

"What is baby's name?" asked the graciously condescending young woman.

"His name is Flyin' Machine Jackson," was the colored mother's reply.

"How did you come to give him such an extraordinary name?"

"Well, you see dat chile takes after his father an' I wanted to give him a name dat were gwine to be appropriate. An' every time anybody mentions 'flyin' machine' dey say it's sumpin' dat positively refuses to work."—Washington Star.

Research of Value.

Original medical research of great value has been recently done by Japanese army surgeons upon the influence of insects in spreading germ diseases.

LOSING ITS TERRORS.

FULL SKIRT NOT SO UNKIND TO AMPLE WOMEN.

Perfect Fit in Lining Helps Much and Large Sleeves Take Off Effect of Fullness at the Hips—New York Fashion Notes.

New York correspondence:



PERFECT fit in the linings of skirts accomplishes a good deal, so much that the full skirt is losing its terrors for the very women who a few months ago were voting the prospect of it a dreadful nightmare. Over the nicely fitted lining fullness can be arranged without suggesting too great amplitude, especially if care is taken that fullness also is shown at or near the hem of the skirt. Then with some form of bodice conveying suggestion of breadth in the shoulders, and the current fashions include many such, there is little danger of the full

simple house dresses to grand evening finery. Afternoon dresses of silk are freely trimmed, and novelty in the embellishment is much sought. Odd combinations sometimes result from such search. One such is pictured in the initial at the head of this depiction. Here the dress material was mouse gray silk, and the straps over the shirred bodice were gray voile.

There would almost seem to be rivalry in richness between evening and house gowns. Sometimes the two are greatly alike in general scheme of ornamentation, but usually the evening get-up employs the richer fabrics and trimmings. Three of each are put here by the artist, and will serve to show the trend of their respective styles. The evening dress of the first group was sketched in pink silk, with self ruchings and ruffings, and with embroidery of tiny white cord. The gown shown in half length in the next picture was white crepe de chine, the bodice enriched with gold embroidery and white fringe in a very handsome combination. To the right of this is a gown of dotted white lace trimmed with bunches of grapes done in seed pearls. From left to right in the first picture are house dresses of pale green and white embroidered batists, the plain white shawl effect edged with lace; a white mull trimmed with valenciennes and with all-over lace yoke, and a pale blue crepe de chine trimmed with point de venise. With both house and evening dresses the use of lace is remarkably free, but in the latter the lace is applied so plentifully that often little of the goods is in sight. Elbow sleeves ending in lace frills are of very elaborate character in evening bodices, but



EVENING AND HOUSE FINERY.

skirt playing mischief with any figure. The width lent by most of the sleeves now fashionable gives further protection against an appearance of undue width, so what at the first showings of this skirt fashion was most feared is really no danger at all, if a reasonable care is taken. The consequence is that though the full skirts made slow headway, they have made it surely and are becoming a general acceptance. The more they are seen on women, the more their merits make impression.

Silks have more than recovered summer stylishness. Last season, and in less degree the year before, the general admiration for smooth faced cloths of light weights helped to keep silk from the place it usually has, but now silks

the simpler sleeve consisting of a mere bit of trimming at the shoulder ranks as quite as dressy.

With the liking for elaborations so general, and with the tendency toward costly attire so marked on the part of stylish dressers, it is surprising that the separate bodice should have the standing it has. It is counted as a stylish and very dressy garment, and is worn by the most careful dressers. So though a medium of economizing for those who care to make it so, it also keeps the best of company. Of course, your stylish wardrobe may contain many such bodices, while the ordinary outfit may put much reliance on only one. Two of these bodices are sketched here, a natural colored pongee trimmed with golden brown vel-



SEPARATE BODICES AND EVENING MODELS.

of the soft, supple weaves are in vogue for about all manner of dress. Their favor for shirt waist costumes is pronounced, and the very weaves most used in this way are also employed in more elaborate gowns. Then figured silks are in fine array, and in one sort or another silks are restored to everything from

vet, and a white pongee, shirred and finished with white taffeta bands. A deal of open-work embroidery is seen on such waists, and the freely embroidered garment often is embellished with lace, besides. Shirring runs riot on them, and little of the fronts of any of them are left untrimmed.