

Science Notes

BY WILLIAM G. HAYNES.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN ELECTRIC LAMP

A Budapest engineer, Mr. Karl von Dreger, after three years of experiment, has perfected an electric lamp which operates without a battery, the power being obtained by the transformation of muscular action into electric energy. The pocket lamp, which corresponds in size and lighting power to the ordinary battery lamps, obtains its power from the thumb of the hand which carries it. The thumb moves a small projecting lever along the sector of a circle with a moderate expenditure of strength. A spring draws the lever swiftly back to the original position. By corresponding rapid pressure on the lever, and utilizing a ratchet, a spring is stretched or "wound up" and this, by the interpolation of a few cog wheels, drives with an approximately regular number of revolutions, a small magnet with a permanent magnet as a reed. Usually the lever is worked continuously, as long as it is desired to have the light burn, but Mr. von Dreger has succeeded in storing up so much energy in the spring that the lamp will continue to burn for several minutes after the lever motion has ceased.

The lamp is manufactured in another form intended to be carried (Traglampe). Here the power is obtained by pressing together two handles attached to the casing of the lamp. One of these is fixed and the other is movable and is operated by the whole hand instead of by the thumb alone. It gives a corresponding larger amount of light. The same principle can be employed for other uses, i. e. to operate ignition dynamos for blasting.—Elek. Ztg.—Scientific American Supplement.

DERAILMENT BY WIND

The derailment of railway trains by wind is not an uncommon occurrence in case of light, narrow-gauge railways. Mr. R. H. Curtis, writing in Symon's Metrological Magazine, tells how this danger has been virtually eliminated on one such line; viz., a stretch of 36 miles along the Atlantic coast of Ireland, forming part of the West Clare Railway. Probably there is no other line in British Isles exposed to such violent gales, and during a few years prior to 1909 as many as five "blow-offs" occurred, in which the carriages were completely smashed though there was fortunately no loss of life. In that year Mr. Curtis devised for the railway a pressure-tube anemometer with electrical apparatus for giving warnings by ringing a bell in the station-master's house at Quilty; the first when the velocity of wind reached 65 miles an hour, the second when it reached 85 miles an hour. When the first warning is given, 2,400 pounds of movable ballast, kept for the purpose at every station, is placed on each vehicle of any train on the line at the first station it reaches. When the second signal is given, trains are stopped until the storm abates. Since the apparatus was installed, in December, 1909, there has been only one storm-derailment, and this was due to deliberate disregard of the signals.—Scientific American.

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BINGA DISMOND EQUALS WORLD'S RECORD WITH EASE

Chicago, Ill., June 8.—Binga Dismond's quarter mile in 47 2-5 seconds at Evanston Saturday is still the talk of the athletic world, and has given impetus to the plans of having the great Maroon runner meet Ted Meredith, the national champion in a match race. Dismond's performance Saturday was truly a brilliant one. The great flier got away to a good start and jumped the field on the first turn, increasing his lead on the back stretch and breasted the tape an easy winner. Had he been pushed to the limit, a world's record would have been in the making.

Commenting in the Pittsburgh Gazette Times anent the great Dismond, Leslie W. Rowland, offers the following:

"The University of Chicago has a Negro runner of whom the staid old school is mighty proud. Binga Dismond, a good student, a gentleman, an athlete of extraordinary ability, has been carrying the Maroons to victory all season. And the students who frequent Marshall Field and the Midway forget Dismond's color and sing praises to his name, which is as it should be. The lad broke the conference quarter-mile record in the annual meet at Evanston Saturday and equaled Ted Meredith's world's record of 47 2-5 seconds in that event. Such men are more than a credit to their race; they are a credit to the white race. They are white inside."

COLORED YOUTH WINS ORATORICAL PRIZE

New York, June 17.—A young Colored student's oration on Brooker T. Washington the late educator, deadlocked the judges on the second prize, in the George Augustus Sandham oratorical contest of New York University's commencement exercises. As a result two second prizes were awarded, one to Lewis Davidson, '17, the colored contestant, and the other to William H. Draper, '16, the white contestant, who spoke for preparedness in his address, "A Plea for a Virile National Policy."

IOWA FEDERATION OF WOMAN'S CLUBS

Buxton, Iowa, June 17.—The Iowa Federation of Colored Woman's Clubs convened at Buxton, May 23 and 24. Monday evening the reception for visitors was held at the Colored Y. M. C. A. Tuesday morning the Federation entered into the business of the re-organization for the fifteenth annual session at St. John's A. M. E. Church, Mrs. Sue M. Brown, president, presiding. The reports of the clubs showed an increase during the year. Six new clubs were organized and were admitted to membership.

AID GIVEN COLORED SCHOOLS IN KENTUCKY

Frankfort, Ky., June 17.—V. O. Gilbert, superintendent of public instruction, has received \$2,000 from the general board of education of New York with which to employ Colored rural school supervisors. The board also furnished \$950 for county training schools for teachers. Such a school has been organized in Bourbon county and \$350 will be donated to that school. About three hundred dollars will go toward the establishment of a training school in Nicholas county.

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