

# CURRENT TOPICS

**SEEING BY WIRE** is the next thing in order. A Paris cablegram to the New York World says: "Two Frenchmen have invented an apparatus for transmitting by wire the reflected likenesses of persons standing at either end, enabling people talking over a telephone to see as well as hear each other. The inventors are G. Bignoux and M. Fournier, both well known for research. The picture is transmitted by light waves over the wires, just as sound waves are transmitted. Three thousand candle-power electric light is projected by a mirror on the object to be portrayed. Sixty-four wires are needed for this purpose, but to have moving pictures 4,000 wires will be necessary. The experimenters say they have succeeded in transmitting likenesses and expect their invention will be in practical working order in a few months. It is even asserted that it will be possible to transmit pictures in natural colors."

**REFERRING TO THIS** cablegram the World adds: "The problem of 'seeing by wire' has engaged the attention of scientists and telegraphic experts almost ever since the telephone was made practical. From time to time announcement has been made that the problem was solved, but nothing useful has been produced. A press dispatch from Mexico City less than three months ago reported that Alberto Sanchez, an electrical engineer, had invented a 'teleradioticon' which would transmit vision as well as voice over an ordinary telephone wire. The apparatus resembled a short opera glass attached to a battery, and it was declared by persons who witnessed them that the tests were successful. It was even averred recently that a means had been discovered of transmitting pictures by wireless."

**EVEN THE STORK** is interested in Dr. Jonnesco's stovaine and strychnine anaesthetic. A writer in the New York World says: "This morning there flutters out of Manhattan and across Jersey to the city of Penn a wondrous bird. It flutters on noiseless, nerveless, painless wings, for it accompanies the Roumanian scientist, Prof. Thomas Jonnesco. It is the same old stork that all humanity has known for all time and that President Roosevelt feared was going out of business in America, but it has a new name. Its name is Stovaine. On last Thursday morning the World told how Prof. Jonnesco had said in the Post-Graduate hospital that when the new stork went to a home his flight was rapid and was a 'blessing to motherhood.' Yesterday at the Hotel Knickerbocker Prof. Jonnesco confirmed this statement. 'I am confident,' said he, 'that it is destined to bring joy into millions of homes where now the alighting of that sacred bird that you Americans call the stork brings sometimes sorrow and anguish.' Nowhere did the announcement that the new anaesthetic was as useful in childbirth as in any surgical operation, create more discussion than at Bellevue, that great center of suffering and sorrow. All the surgeons had read that, in the Post-Graduate and other hospitals, men had undergone difficult operations fully conscious after stovaine had been injected; but that stovaine would remove the dread that hangs over the lives of so many women was a surprise. In fact, there seemed to be doubt about the advisability of trying the new anaesthetic in maternity wards until it had been thoroughly tried and approved elsewhere."

**ONE SURGEON**, speaking to the World representative, said: "Pain has always been considered a necessary adjunct to the initiation into life of new candidates. I am not sure that it is not still so. Certainly the mortality in operations where stovaine has been used, resulting from after effects and shock, has been greater than in those cases where ether and chloroform are used. I think that Dr. Woods Hutchinson sized up the new anaesthetic rightly. He pointed out that, although Dr. Jonnesco's paper asserted that nausea occurs in only two per cent of cases, three of the four cases in one day showed signs of nausea. Dr. Jonnesco said that the pulse is usually normal in rapidity and

strength. In two of the four patients that were operated on here it was markedly weak.' Dr. Hooker in Bellevue was of the opinion that, if all that was claimed for the new stork was true, it would certainly take race suicide out of the possible campaign planks of political parties and be a source of happiness to millions of homes. He said it had not been tried in the Bellevue maternity ward. At the Maternity hospital of the Lying-in Society, the superintendent smiled slightly at the idea of changing the name of the faithful old bird that for so many years has built his nest on the high roof of the building, but said that if all claimed for stovaine were true no one would be more enthusiastic than the doctors in his and kindred institutions. Dr. William L. Keene, of Chicago, who came to New York to attend the operations where stovaine was used, said: 'I was surprised when Dr. Jonnesco paused in an operation to say, 'In cases of childbirth stovaine decreases the discomfort of the patient and increases the rapidity with which the new citizen enters the world.' I had been carefully watching the young men under the effects of the anaesthetic and I had noticed that, though they smiled and talked with the doctors operating on them, they did not move their bodies or legs below the center of the back. That gave me the impression that their bodies were paralyzed below the point of injection. I had thought of the blessing of stovaine to motherhood, but this discouraged me in the thought that it might be useful in that way. But when a young man who had given a history of epilepsy was being operated on I noticed that, while he suffered pain, his body was not entirely paralyzed, for his feet moved spasmodically. Now the er—flight of the stork is automatic, and does not depend upon consciousness. Therefore Prof. Jonnesco's claim may easily be true, in which case we are at the dawn of the transformation of one of earth's saddest hours into one of comfort and happiness for the one most concerned.'"

**DR. CARLTON SIMON**, who is credited with having discovered the sleep center in the brain, was optimistic about the benefit to womanhood. "Injections into the spine have caused a great deal of interest in the last few years," he said, "because of the peculiar and in some instances brilliant results. Undoubtedly the experiments that are now being made in the great laboratories of the world will bring forth even more startling wonders than those recently announced by Dr. Jonnesco. In these great experiments it stands to reason that attention will be paid to the alleviating of those tragic hours in the lives of the mothers of the race. Stovaine, when injected into the spinal canal, affects all the essential nerve centers below the cerebellum, which is the posterior part of the brain and which does not affect or influence our consciousness. There can be no question but stovaine is one of many hundreds of drugs that will in the future be used in producing conscious anaesthesia. For the last few years many diseases have been treated successfully by injection of fluid into the spinal canal and as well by the removal of fluids that have gathered there and which by compression produces a variety of symptoms. The aim of the surgeon is to obtain the maximum of result with the minimum of danger to the patient and the mortality due to general anaesthesia and shock and bad after effects is one that has engaged the attention of medical science for many years. Any step in the right direction is welcomed by the scientific world. If stovaine or any other remedial agent may control the agonies of travail and be a lethal agent in operations, a great blessing has been showered on the human race and on motherhood in particular."

**THE TORRENS** registration of land titles is valid in New York state. The New York World says: "The constitutionality of the Torrens system of land title registration was upheld yesterday in a unanimous decision of the appellate division of the supreme court, Brooklyn. The case, the first brought in the state to test the Torrens law, will be taken to the court of

appeals. Thomas Duffy bought the house and lot, No. 113 Decatur street, Brooklyn, and engaged ex-Assemblyman M. E. Finnegan, an official title examiner under the Torrens law, to register the title under the new system. One of the former owners and neighbors who have interest in the property under a restriction covenant affecting the block objected. Mr. Finnegan brought for Mr. Duffy the suit in which yesterday's decision was rendered. Mr. Finnegan has been a real estate lawyer forty-two years, and when an assemblyman in 1894 was instrumental in having the block system of registering titles established. He is greatly pleased with the decision, and is confident that it will be sustained by the higher court. 'I anticipate the general adoption of the Torrens system in the near future throughout the state, he said yesterday. 'The system can be put generally in operation within a year, and then the expense of repeated searches whenever property changes hands will be a thing of the past, as, when a title is once registered the owner receives a certificate of ownership, which will be as negotiable as a dollar bill, provided a simple record is made whenever it changes hands.'"

**STATE BANK** Commissioner A. G. Young of Oklahoma has issued a statement relating to the banks of his state. According to this statement the condition of the 662 state banks of Oklahoma on November 16 showed an increase in individual deposits of \$4,998,173 in comparison with the September 1 report, and an increase of \$7,052,505 over the report made on June 23. This is the greatest gain shown in any statement since the state guaranty law became effective. According to the report made Monday by the controller of the currency on the condition of the national banks of Oklahoma there was a loss of \$700,000 in individual deposits from September 1 to November 15. The state banks, according to the state report, have made a gain of 5.2 per cent in the average reserve for the seventy-five day period referred to bringing the reserve up to 49.7 per cent, which is the highest average ever shown by a statement of the Oklahoma banks. The total deposits in state banks on November 16 amounted to \$49,775,433, or an increase of \$20,500,000 in one year, or of \$31,000,000 since the guaranty law became effective, twenty-one months ago. A gain of sixteen new state banks is shown since September 1, five of which are converted national banks. Keifer, Okla., Dec. 15.—Every depositor of the First State bank of Keifer, which closed yesterday as a result of the failure of the Farmers bank, of Tulsa, who demanded his money today, was paid in full. Only a few depositors demanded their money. The depositors are protected by the state guaranty law.

**THE APPOINTMENT** of Judge Lurton to the United States supreme bench is only another indication of the small influence which republican reformers have with the Taft administration. The Omaha World-Herald says: "In the appointment of Judge Lurton of Tennessee to the supreme bench President Taft has strengthened what might be called the conservative element of the court and weakened the liberal element. On October 29, the Philadelphia North American, the largest progressive republican newspaper in the country, published prominently on its first page an attack on Judge Lurton as an 'ally of corporations.' Among other things the North American said: 'From the standpoint of the progressive republicans nothing Mr. Taft could do, not even his continued alliance with the Aldrich-Cannon combination, could prove so effectively reactionary as would the appointment of Judge Lurton to succeed the late Justice Peckham. \* \* \* The general charge is that Judge Lurton has shown himself, in all his decisions, to be so partial to corporations, and so absolutely unwilling to consider the rights of the public in any contest between the public and the corporations, that his appointment would be regarded as an effort to pack the court in favor of the great combinations of wealth. \* \* \* Those who object to the prospective appointment of Judge Lurton declare that Lurton has made it man-