

THE FIELD OF ELECTRICITY

Possibility of Furnishing Some Light for Those Bereft of Sight.

NOTABLE EXPERIMENTS OF RUSSIAN DOCTOR

Aluminum Competing with Copper for Trolley Wire-Test of the French Telegraph System at the Rennes Court-Martial.

A report comes from London that Dr. Peter Stiens, a Russian physician living there, has devised an apparatus, in which electricity is a factor, whereby the blind may be made to see, even when their eyes are hopelessly destroyed. Dr. Stiens explains that his invention includes an apparatus which focuses an image of the objects before it—as the human eye does. This image is then conveyed by electricity to the brain, independently of the eyes, whether the subject possesses them or not. Dr. Stiens will not divulge the complete nature and working of his invention, because he says it is not yet perfected.

A correspondent of the New York Journal, who visited Dr. Stiens and induced him to give a demonstration of his invention, reports: I was taken into a small dark room and there heavily blindfolded. The doctor then struck a number of matches, which I heard, and flashed a lamp before me, as he told me, but I was not able to perceive the faintest glimmer of light.

Dr. Stiens then touched my head with his apparatus. Immediately I began to see a dim light, which suffused my whole surroundings. The doctor then asked me if I could distinguish any object. I looked and saw a hand held up with outstretched fingers, which I could distinguish clearly.

The light grew fully became brighter and I saw other objects in the room. I could distinguish chairs and tables. It seemed to me that I could see more and more all the time and I had an impression that I should have been able to see perfectly if I had remained in connection with the apparatus long enough.

While I was going through this experiment I felt a sensation like that of a mild electric current passing through my temples. As soon as the apparatus was disconnected everything appeared black to me as before.

Of course I am not able to declare positively that I was not the subject of a trick; that the bandages over my eyes were not manipulated in some way; or that the X-rays did not produce the results which I have described, but I was certainly unable to detect any such fraud.

Several other newspaper men were experimented on in the same way by Dr. Stiens, and all of them agreed that they could only explain what they saw by accepting the statement of his invention.

The doctor, as I have said, was not willing to divulge the entire secret of his invention, but he was willing to explain the principles on which it is based.

"Man," he said, "does not see really with his eyes, but with his brain. The eyes are only an instrument for receiving images, which are conveyed to the center of perception in the brain by the optic nerve. The blind man who has a sound mind will be able to see perfectly well. This is exactly what my invention accomplishes.

"An image is gathered on a screen instead of on the retina of the eye and is conveyed directly by an electrical current to the brain. Such a use of electricity in the process will be already foreshadowed in the process well known to science as catoptrics. By this it is possible to convey medicines, anesthetics and other substances into the interior of a man's body without his being aware of it. The same medicine can be sent through the solid bone, conveying insensibility to nerve or marrow.

"My invention may be compared in certain respects to the telephone, which receives an impression of the human voice and reproduces it artificially somewhere else.

"The full development of this invention and the principles upon which it is based will lead, I hope, to many wonderful results."

French Operators.

American newspaper men are accustomed to think that the only surprising papers are in this country. The correspondence of the New York Sun at the Dreyfus trial notes: "Papers in Japan and even in Turkey sent correspondents to tell this story at Rennes. A paper which I had never heard of in Norway spent \$100 a day to give its readers an account of the trial, and a single journal in Vienna expended more than \$20,000 in telegraph tolls at urgent rates."

American telegraph companies are accustomed to doing big feats on occasions. The French operators seem to be as great hustlers. Mr. Chamberlain adds: "The best apparatus and most skillful operators in France were assembled at Rennes for the tremendous task of conveying the news of the trial to the four quarters of the world. Considering the facilities available the result was probably the best accomplished in telegraphy in this or any other country. On the first day more than 650,000 words were transmitted by telegraph alone. This quantity was exceeded on the day La Vie was shot, and on other days it varied between the maximum and a minimum of 350,000 words." And the copy was written in all sorts of foreign languages, too.

Copper and Aluminum.

One of the unexpected effects of the increase in the price of copper, reports the Philadelphia Record, has been the disappearance from circulation in China of a large part of the currency, which consists chiefly of copper coins called "cash". It has always been the custom in China to make the weight of the cash coins equivalent to the full intrinsic value of the metal, and since the price of copper has nearly doubled in the last two years it has been discovered that the purchase of these coins for the purpose of melting into copper ingots is a profitable operation. This business has been quietly conducted on such a large scale that there is now a great scarcity of currency in China. The September issue of the United States Consular Reports contains a long article on the United States trade in China, by United States Consul Fowler of Chefoo. The consul says:

"A real difficulty which the government has to face is the scarcity of copper cash—a difficulty which is likely to increase, as the intrinsic value of the cash is actually greater than that of the silver for which they are present. An exchange of copper money purchasable for a tall silver coin costs the government for metal (copper and zinc) not less than 1,354 taels, which does not include the cost of melting. This condition has not only restricted coinage, but has resulted in a serious disappearance of coins, due to melting down for the sake of the copper; and a further fall is to be feared."

Not long ago it was reported that several tons of copper coins had arrived at New Delhi from India, where they had been bought up and exported to be melted into ingots.

The great increase in the price of copper is a very serious matter to all the electrical

interests, for the selling price of copper is about double what it was a couple of years ago. While copper has been rising in price per pound, aluminum has been declining so that at the present relative rates the latter is cheaper so far as bulk is concerned. This is owing, of course, to the light weight of the aluminum as compared with copper. The price of copper per pound now is about one-half the price of aluminum per pound, but a casting made of copper and zinc will weigh about three times as much as an aluminum casting made from the same pattern, and it has been found that the aluminum can be made much stiffer and harder by melting a small quantity of nickel with the metal.

Roentgen Rays in Surgery.

From time to time the records of the medical profession give evidence of the important place which the Roentgen rays have permanently taken in both medicine and surgery. The fluorescent screen has now reached such a degree of perfection that with fluorescence in hand, the physician can detect the minutest movement of the heart and lungs, and the least change in the position of the diaphragm can be watched and studied at leisure in the living subject. In short, there is scarcely any change in connection with the lungs and the heart and great vessels which cannot now be seen and photographed, and scarcely any change of the chest or of the organs which it contains concerning which the most valuable information cannot be obtained. A surgeon can now tell whether injured bones are in their proper relative situation without touching the splints or giving the patient a moment's rest.

One of the most beneficent results of radiographic progress in the fact that the detection of renal calculi can now be looked forward to with a fair degree of certainty. Dr. C. M. Moulin believes that before long the examination of a patient's chest through the fluoroscope will be considered as much a matter of course in all doubtful cases as an examination with the stethoscope is at the present time. The X-ray is now employed for the detection of incipient pneumonia, also in cases where the symptoms suggest tubercular meningitis, and in cases where the clinical picture is one of the chest or of the lungs. A cure is recorded of tuberculous of the elbow joint. The joint was exposed to the ray two or three times a week for two hours each time, until the total exposure was about twelve hours. After each exposure a wet compress was applied to the site of inflammation had disappeared and there was no return of the disease. Extraordinary results have been recorded in the treatment by X-ray of lupus and various skin diseases, chronic eczema, favus, psoriasis, etc., and new children are regularly examined by the same method, the size and position of the liver and spleen, as well as of the kidneys, being even more readily determined than with adults. By giving subnitrate of bismuth with bread and milk, changes in the size and shape of the stomach after a meal may be followed.

Electricity in Capsules.

In New York the latest thing is electricity in capsules. A company has been formed with \$15,000,000 capital to supply power in ten and twelve-grain capsules, which can be bought by the box and carried around in the vest pocket. One of these capsules will furnish electricity enough to run an hour for one full horse power. The capsules can be used for propelling automobiles, and it is said that they will take up so little room and weight that the weight of the automobiles will be reduced materially. A battery of the new power, weighing only 800 pounds, can run an automobile four or five times as long as far as the largest batteries now in use, which weigh 2,000 or 3,000 pounds. If all this can really be done it will revolutionize the automobile industry and remove one of the strongest objections to its use—the great weight. Automobiles, as at present made, weigh 4,000 pounds and upward, the heavy burden they are obliged to carry for propulsion making it impracticably necessary to construct the carriages on the strongest and heaviest scale. When one can buy electricity in the same shape as a box of quinine pills it will be possible to use it for many purposes for which it is unavailable at present. The president of the company, John Fest, who is the discoverer of the new power, says it can be used in the most remote and isolated places as easily as in New York City, and that a farmer can employ it to heat and light his house, to draw water, to make butter, saw wood, run a threshing machine, drive fans and keep out flies. If it can do all this men will no more think of being without electricity than of going down town without change in their pockets.

Steam Engine Here to Stay.

"Ten years from now," said a prophetic gentleman at the Illinois Central depot to a New Orleans Times man, "these ugly, snorting, obnoxious steam locomotives will be as antiquated as coked hats and crinolines. In their place we will see light and graceful electric engines, without smoke, without noise." "Hold on a bit!" interrupted a practical machinist, who happened to be in the group addressed. "I don't like to destroy a pretty picture, but it's extremely doubtful whether you or anybody else will ever see an electric engine pulling a fast train. That light, graceful affair you were just describing wouldn't bulge a single car on a matter of such energy. It developed, it would simply stand still and the wheels would spin around. To secure enough adhesion to pull a heavy load requires weight and lots of it, and an engine that exerts a starting power of 20,000 pounds must weigh between forty-five and fifty tons. That is a stubborn fact and can't be dodged, and there would be no sense in loading an electric engine with mere dead metal if it is a hundred to one that the power, if it is ever used in ordinary railroading, will be applied in some other way. The chances are that each car will have a motor of its own, just as is the case now on trolley lines. At any rate the usual fancy portrait of an electric locomotive at the head of a train is a scientific impossibility. I know, of course, that there are a number of specially constructed electric engines now in actual use, but they are adapted to peculiar conditions and not to general service. It may interest you, also, to know that there is hardly an engineer of much prominence in the country who believes in electricity as the future power in railroading. Steam applied in new ways, gas and compressed air are the things that are being talked about."

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever, sore, itchy, chapped hands, chilblains, corns and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Kuhn & Co.

Severe Storms in Italy.

ROME, Oct. 18.—Severe storms, accompanied by floods, prevail in the southern districts of Italy, working widespread damage. At San Giorgio a bridge and twenty houses have been swept away and it is believed that there has been considerable loss of life there. At Monte Mesola a church was

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A striking feature of the opening ceremonies was a procession of the clergy, and others which formed in Gardner Memorial parish house and marched up the center aisle of the cathedral, acting under direction of the master of ceremonies. In addition to the clergy were members of the choir, cross bearers, an officer of the diocese of Nebraska and others. This procession was an inspiring sight. While the bishops were entering the sanctuary the intrepid, Psalm cxxi, was sung.

Special effort had been made to provide music of a high quality, and the effort was a success. In addition to the regular cathedral choir there were numerous noted singers from other churches, so that a great volume of voices was heard. Mrs. Ella Cotton was prominent in arranging the music and hymns and themes were freely interwoven throughout the program.

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Late this afternoon Mrs. Speak, wife of a traveling man, swallowed twenty-five grains of morphine with suicidal intent. By hard work a physician saved her life. She would give no reason for her act.

SIoux REFUSE TO GIVE UP HIDES.

Indians Assert Their Right to Every Portion of Cattle Allowed Them.

SIoux FALLS, S. D., Oct. 18.—(Special.)—There is a possibility that the Sioux Indians may again actively resist what they deem an infringement on their rights. According to information received from Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian agencies, the Sioux are protesting against the sale of hides from cattle killed on the reservation to non-Indian agencies in the west. They object to it being stated that the hides are distributed gratuitously among them. Ever since the treaty of 1858 was negotiated with the Sioux Indians the distribution among them of the hides taken from cattle killed for issue to them as beef rations has been regarded as one of their unquestioned rights. In fact, different secretaries of the interior have at various times decided that the hides belonged exclusively to the Indians and that they could do what they pleased with them.

Dotsen Receives Life Sentence.

DEADWOOD, S. D., Oct. 18.—(Special.)—Clinton Dotsen, who was tried at Anconda, Mont., for the murder of Eugene Cullinane several weeks ago, has just been sentenced

Wells-McGuck.

DAVID CITY, Neb., Oct. 18.—(Special.)—One of the most prominent society events of the season was the marriage of W. A. Wells and Mrs. Belle McGuck, at the residence of the bride in this city at 5 o'clock this morning. The bride was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Harmon of the Christian church officiated in the presence of a few invited guests. Mr. Wells is one of the pioneers of this city, having located here in 1877. He is the proprietor of the leading lumber yard and owns a large stock ranch near the city. Mrs. McGuck is a prominent society woman and has been a resident of this city for about ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Wells left on the early morning train for a short wedding trip to Michigan. They will return in about two weeks and go to house-keeping at E and Ninth streets.

Cramer-Hammond.

In St. Joseph yesterday occurred the wedding of Guy H. Cramer of Omaha and Mrs. Nora J. Hammond of St. Joseph. Mr. Cramer left for the home of his bride on an early train yesterday morning and will return to Omaha with Mrs. Cramer after a brief honeymoon. The wedding was a quiet affair, being attended by but a few of the intimate friends and relatives, and its announcement will come as a surprise to their many friends. Mr. Cramer is connected with the passenger department of the Burlington.

Beahm-Richards.

FRIEND, Neb., Oct. 18.—(Special.)—Dr. J. V. Beahm and Miss Lillian Richards of this city were married in this town today. The ceremony was performed in the Congregational church by Rev. W. B. Payne and witnessed by a large number of guests. The

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Drink, Smoke or Eat

too much if you can't avoid it but DON'T FORGET to take a

GESSLER'S MAGIC HEADACHE WAFER

before you retire. You'll sleep 'sound as a top', wake up with a clear head, a strong stomach and steady nerves. Use a Wafer for any headache from any cause at any time. They are harmless but GUARANTEED TO CURE in 20 minutes or MONEY REFUNDED. Contain no opium, antipyrine or other narcotics. If you wish a free trial write to Max Gessler, 831 Journal Bldg., Milwaukee, Wis. Sold by all druggists at ten cents a box. Try them.

to life imprisonment for the crime. Dotsen is a son of Captain Oliver Dotsen, formerly of Spearfish, who made a raid on the saloons and gambling houses in the northern Hills a short time ago. He was arrested on very strong evidence and with him were Oliver Benson, his nephew, who was sentenced to ten years imprisonment, and Ellis Persinger, whose trial has been continued until November 15. Benson made a full confession of his crime.

President King, Farmer's Bank, Brooklyn, Mich., has used DeWitt's Little Early Riener in his family for years. Say they are the best. These famous little pills cure constipation, biliousness and all liver and bowel troubles.

CAUTION TO POSTMASTERS

Postmaster General Warns Against Levying Political Assessments During Campaign.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—The postmaster general has issued a formal warning to all postmasters against the levy of political assessments and simultaneously the Civil Service commission has called attention to the law governing the subject and of the commission's intention to enforce it. This general warning is similar to that issued heretofore prior to political campaigns and is understood to follow complaints of specific violation of the law received from Ohio and other states where elections are to be held this year.

Secretary Wilson Presides.

CLEAR LAKE, Ia., Oct