

SCIENTISTS DISAGREE.

Von Schoen's Theory of Life in Crystals.

Prof. Kemp, of Columbia university, does not agree with Prof. von Schoen's theory of life in crystals. Americans have learned of the theory through Prof. von Holst, of the Chicago university. According to Dr. von Holst, Prof. von Schoen, who is now 60 years of age, has devoted half of his life to the working out of this theory. The discovery was made by bringing the most powerful magnifying glasses to bear upon the crystals. Thousands of photographs showing the different stages of development and the ultimate results have been taken. The course of the young crystal from the time of its birth until it grows away from the mother and becomes a complete and separate body is pictured in these photographs. The young crystal meets and fights another from a different mother, the battle resulting in the death of the weaker crystal. Crystals from the same mother never fight. According to Dr. von Holst, the views of Von Schoen have been carefully studied by Spencer and others, who are greatly impressed with the wide importance of the discovery. Dr. von Holst further urges that in the cause of science \$500,000 be raised and devoted to the pursuit of the discovery.

Prof. Kemp, of Columbia university, however, stated to the New York Commercial Advertiser that the idea had been advanced before, but merely in a poetical vein, and that this was practically the first attempt to bring it into the realm of cold science. In regard to Von Schoen's expansion of the theory he said:

"Crystals do grow in solutions of various salts, and when two of them meet they interfere with each other, and mutually prevent each other's perfect development. Probably this is the meaning that the remarks of the professor are intended to convey. But innumerable crystals are found at temperatures far above those at which life can exist, so far as we know, as, for instance, in slag and lavas, at over 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Life ceases below the boiling point of water. While the borderline is a difficult thing to draw between inorganic and organic phenomena, especially in low forms of life, and while some rocks are punctured through the agency of life, the greater number have no necessary connection with it."

SHE WAS A TEACHER.

She Wouldn't Take a Seat, But She Sat Down.

The cable car was crowded, mostly by men, and when the large and determined-looking woman entered they did not all arise to offer her a seat. In fact no one did, whereat she flushed an angry red and, reaching up, caught hold of a strap with a vicious clutch.

This was too much for a meek-looking young gentleman, and he arose and, touching his hat, said: "Will you take my seat?"

For a moment she glared at him, and then, with schoolmarin precision of speech, she said: "In the first place it is not your seat."

He looked as guilty as if he had been caught in the act of stealing it, and actually cowered before her stern gaze.

"That seat," she went on, "is the property of the company that operates this road."

"Tha-a-a's so, ma'am," he faltered, coloring with embarrassment as he felt the eyes of his fellow-passengers upon him, "but will—will you take it?"

"Where?" she shouted, in tragic tones. "Answer me that. Where shall I take it?"

He could not answer her query, and he looked as if he wished his parents had never married. Her stern gaze never relaxed, nor did she make any attempt to accept his offer, but went on: "And even if I tried to take it, how could I?"

Looking like a fool, he slunk toward the door, and then, having made herself clear, she said, in a more pleasant manner:

"Young man, I'm a school-teacher, and I make my living at it, but I've given you a lesson in precision of expression that shall cost you nothing. I won't take your seat, but I'll sit down."

"Madam," said he, as he slid the rear door open, "when I got up you sat down—on me."

And the worm, having turned, shut the door and left the woman to her questionable triumph.—N. Y. Journal.

Royal Wedding Cakes.

Royal wedding cakes are never sent out until they have matured for at least six months. The actual baking process lasts from five to seven hours. So great is the demand for cake on the occasion of a royal wedding, that the makers have always a stock of more than 2,000 pounds in the sea-soning room.

Peppermint farming is a profitable industry in southwestern Michigan.

DAY AND MONTHS.

How They Came to Have the Names They Now Do.

The names of our months and of the days of the week commemorate religions that are no longer practiced, and nations that ages ago ceased to exist. January was so called from Janus, the Roman deity, who presided over all gates, doors and openings, and to whom therefore the first month of the year was sacred. The name February comes from a Latin word, signifying to purify, because in that month the annual lustrations or purifications were performed. March is Mars, the god of war, because this month was the most favorable in the south of Europe for beginning military operations. April was from a Latin word, signifying to open, as at this time the flowers, trees and plants showed signs of life; May from Maia, the daughter of Atlas, and mother of Mercury, the brightest of the Pleiades, and reverenced as the goddess of flowers; June is from Juno, the patroness of marriage and the family, and this month was the most popular marriage month among both Greeks and Romans; July was named in honor of Julius Caesar, and August for Augustus, his successor. September, October, November and December were the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth months, as their Latin names signify, the Roman year originally beginning with March, but when January and February were added these months became the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth, the names being retained, however, after they had lost their significance. The names of the week days, though partly borrowed from another source, are no less significant. Sunday was the day of the sun, on which the Druids worshiped the god of light; Monday was the moon's day; Tuesday the day sacred to Tuves, a Saxon deity; Wednesday was the day of Woden or Wotan, the Scandinavian Jupiter; Thursday was the day of Thor, the thunderer; Friday the day of Fre, the Scandinavian Venus, and Saturday was sacred to Saturn. Of all names of our language few convey more historical, mythological and legendary lore than the names of the months and days.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

DISCOURAGED JOURNALIST.

Why the Major Abandoned the News-paper Business.

"Mariah," said the major, "I suppose you are not aware that I once ran a weekly newspaper and that I had some queer experiences."

"That's news to me," said Mrs. Domo. "I never knew that you were ever an editor. You might have had experience as a journalistic soubrette, but I can hardly understand how you could edit a paper with your ability."

"It doesn't require any ability, Mariah, to run a weekly paper. All you have got to have as capital is gall, assisted by scissors and paste."

"Major, you shock me."

"But I got the shock that broke me. I offered a premium of a fine guitar, mandolin or banjo to anyone who would secure me 22 subscribers. In addition, I offered any one of the same instruments with a subscription for one year to my paper for \$6.50."

"Now," continued the major, "I received a great many unique answers and propositions to my advertisements, but the most peculiar of all was one I got from a man down in Indiana."

He said that he liked my paper very much—in fact, he was charmed with it. But he did not have \$6.50 handy, though he was very anxious to secure a mandolin.

"It was hard work to raise 22 annual subscribers in one place and he was not fleet of foot enough to make the effort, but he made this proposition:

"If I would send him the mandolin he would pay me 50 cents in advance for a year's subscription and pledge himself to take the paper for 21 years thereafter and pay 50 cents in advance each succeeding year."

"And did you accept the proposition?" asked Mrs. Domo.

"No, Mariah, I abandoned journalism and became a soldier."—Chicago Dispatch.

Long-Lived Birds.

Some birds are exceedingly long-lived. The swan, it is ascertained by means of unquestionable record, has been known to exist over 300 years.

A sea eagle, captured in 1715, then

already several years of age, died 104 years afterwards, in 1819; and a white-headed vulture, captured in

1708, died in 1826 in one of the aviaries of the Schoenbrunn castle,

near Vienna, having passed 118 years in captivity.

Billiard Ball Statistics.

The total yearly demand for ivory billiard balls, when trade generally is good, is estimated to be about 110,000 to 115,000 balls, of which America and France take half, the remainder being used by England, Germany and other countries. Bad times reduce the number of balls to about 80,000 to 85,000 a year.

X-RAY BUENS.

Abuse of a Wonderful Discovery by Amateur Operators.

The severe irritation and burning caused by the X rays in many instances has assumed a very serious phase, from the fact that the inflammation is now proved to be a true gangrene, or death of the cells. Wounds produced by subjection to the rays are invariably intensely painful, and in many cases of most alarming character. One instance is reported in which a piece of burned flesh as large as the fist had to be cut away from a sufferer, and not infrequently the wound has for months resisted every attempt to heal it. Dr. William J. Morton, whom Edison calls "the first X-ray expert in America," says there is no need whatever for these painful exhibitions, which threaten to retard the usefulness of one of the most magnificent of modern achievements.

The truth is that the burns, of which there have been so many shocking cases, have been produced by inefficiency either of the apparatus or of the operator. Dr. Morton says: "No subject of such complexity as the expert management of the X ray can be mastered by Tom, Dick and Harry without adequate prior study and practice. In most scientific pursuits preliminary technical institution training is required, especially in such as relate to electricity and the physical sciences in general. In the case of the X ray, a double preliminary training is essential, namely, both of the electrical expert and that of the physician. It would now seem that every layman deems himself more than capable of performing medical service through the medium of X-ray pictures for such clients as may choose to come to him. The whole subject resolves itself into this: That difficult subjects require expert management, and although it may be true, as has been said, that an X-ray expert must be born so, still it is true that such an expert must be educated up to the point of expertise. As it is now, too, many would-be operators are fumbling in the dark, and the public has to pay the penalty. Dr. Morton, who, in taking over 500 X-ray pictures, has never inflicted the slightest burn or injury to a tissue, attributes his immunity from accidents to having a powerful apparatus, which enables him to place his Crookes tubes at a considerable distance from the subject. He takes hands at from two to four feet in from two seconds to two minutes. He takes pictures of the human trunk at two to three feet, and in no case does he ever place the Crookes tube nearer to the subject than 18 inches. With poor apparatus, the operator is apt to think that he must place the tube near in order to get a strong picture, and then the danger begins.

In a hospital case of a young lady who had a terrible ulceration of the skin, the patient confessed that the tube had been placed within 1½ inches, and that the exposure had been 1½ hours. Mr. Tesla says that X rays will burn just like ordinary heat rays if you allow them to come too near the skin. He protects the skin by the interposition of a plate of thin aluminum sheet or a gauze of aluminum wires, and insists on the exposures never being made at a less distance than 14 inches. He strongly advises the abandonment of tubes containing platinum, and the substitution for them of a properly constructed Lenard tube, containing pure aluminum only. Furthermore, Tesla says, whatever the cause may be, his health, and that of two persons who were daily under the influence of the rays, more or less, has materially improved since he has been engaged in Roentgen ray experimentation, and a troublesome cough with which he was constantly afflicted has entirely disappeared, a similar improvement being observed on another person. This suggests a new phase of X-ray investigation.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Fireproof Wood.

Fireproof wood is stated to be the newest American invention. During the past few weeks a series of tests has been applied, with most satisfactory results. It is also asserted that a well-known Swanska gentleman, who is identified with the steel and tinplate trades, regards it as a future rival to tinplate. The tests which were recently carried on in London gave proof of the wood being able to withstand heat at 900 degrees.

London's Street Fountains.

There are now 712 fountains for

human beings, 286 large troughs for horses and cattle and 474 small troughs for sheep and dogs in the streets and suburbs of London. During a period of 24 hours the fountains have been used by more than 2,500,000 persons, while at the troughs 500,000 horses have quenched their thirst.

Name Would Bring Success.

Sillibub—Why don't you call your new play "Dynamite?"

Thespis—Why so?

Sillibub—It would be sure to bring down the house.—Town Topics.

Conditions—Motis in plus complet, la vente de 9 000 d'intérêt hypothécaire et classes uniques. L'acquéreur devra assumer les taxes de 1897 à déposer 1000\$ de la vente. Acte de vente devant E. J. Murphy, notaire de l'acquéreur.

PAUL O. GURLEY, Encaveurs.

27 juillet 1897—juillet 1898.

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27 juillet 1898.

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