

THE INDIAN OCEAN.

ITS HYDROGRAPHY AND BIOLOGY.

A superficial impression has been cultivated on the Continent that research in the lower depths is almost the peculiar appanage of the Prince of Monaco.

Another British research expedition, which has just been equipped and of which an interesting sketch is given in 'Nature,' will deserve to rank as of the first importance in the annals of oceanography.

Since the cruise of the "Challenger" which lay south, almost to the fringe of the Antarctic Circle, much has been done to familiarise scientific men with many parts of the Indian Ocean.

The object of the new expedition is, broadly speaking, to correlate, as far as may be, and to co-ordinate the results of these various preceding and mutually independent expeditions.

Foremost among the scientific results hoped for from the expedition is the determination by soundings and temperature tests, of such questions as the existence of any relatively shallow banks connecting India with South Africa, or Mauritius with the Seychelles.

Money grants for the purposes of the expedition have been made by the British Association and the Balfour Memorial Fund at Cambridge.

NATURAL GAS IN AMERICA.

A SATISFACTORY REPORT.

According to the annual report of the United States Geological Survey, the natural gas industry in the United States, so far from decreasing, has shown in the last reported year a considerable increase.

CHILDREN WHEN TEETHING.

This is the most dangerous age in the life of a child. At this time they have more or less diarrhoea, which weakens the system and renders the child more susceptible to disease.

"MARS INHABITED"

AN ADVANCED PEOPLE.

On the top floor of an apartment house near the Observatory, I had the good fortune to find M. Camille Flammarion, the eminent French astronomer, and one of the most remarkable men in France.

On being ushered into his study, a rather short man, with a leonine head and dreamy eyes, rose to greet me, and in a simple unaffected manner bade me welcome.

Naturally enough, one of the first questions I asked such an authority referred to the planet Mars.

"Ah, the planet Mars," he replied. "I have been studying that planet closely for thirty years, and I have prepared a regular map of it with all its canals."

"The public at large does not really know the precision of some of our astronomical observations. Thus we know the length of the day in Mars by diurnal rotation to the 100th part of a second, and from observations, which have now extended over 100 years, we find the length of the day on the planet is 24h. 37 min. 22sec.

SOLAR SPOTS.

"I am one of those rare Parisians," M. Flammarion continued, "who has never changed his abode. I have been here since the war of 1871, in fact, I took the flat during the war, when I was a captain in the Gendarme, and I am surrounded by trees and foliage as if I were in the country."

"I began to note the different phases of vegetation on the magnificent chestnut trees just outside my windows, on the Avenue de l'Observatoire. These trees were planted by Napoleon the First in 1807, and I soon got to know them and their peculiarities."

"I discovered the same thing with the return of the swallows, the first nightingale, and the song of the cuckoo, though all, of course, are modified by atmospheric conditions."

"I do not, however, spend all my time here, as half the year I am at the observatory at Juvisy, which is only about twenty minutes from Paris. There we have two astronomers working constantly, principally occupied with the study of Mars, Jupiter, and Venus; we also carefully observe and register the temperature of the air, the ground, the interior of trees, and underground streams, to study how the sun affects climatic conditions."

"We have, as well, different coloured-glass houses for studying the effect of solar heat on plants, and here we made the curious discovery that red glass hastens vegetation, while blue glass suppresses it."

"I then asked M. Flammarion about some of the startling articles he had written on the end of the world."

"I have so often dealt with all the different hypotheses, but you and I need not bother about that, as it will not occur in our time," he replied dryly.

"On leaving M. Flammarion said: 'They have named a cirque in the moon after me, but pray do not mention it, as the Budget Commission may want to tax it, as being landed property.'"

The Banana trade with the West Indies is growing so rapidly that another new steamship, the Nicoya, has been added to Elders and Fryles, fleet of fruit steamers on this service.

A SAFE SPECULATION.

If you have an attack of rheumatism and Chamberlain's Pain Balm gets you back to work in a few days, will it not pay for itself several times over? There is no need of suffering from rheumatism for a month or six weeks incurring the expense of a large doctor's bill, when a few applications of this liniment, costing but a small amount will cure you.

THE CRIME OF COLOUR.

The Calcutta correspondent of the London 'Daily News' writes under date March 23:-

The long-deferred resolution of the Government of India on the report of the Police Commission has at last made its appearance. It is a lengthy document, and the majority of its recommendations are concerned with questions of detail with which an English student of Indian affairs can hardly be expected to trouble himself.

It must be premised that in every one of the districts into which the provinces of India are sub-divided there is a superior officer in immediate charge of the local police.

Since May, 1900, no inspectors of police have been promoted to district superintendencies, and now the avenue is definitely closed by the recommendations of the Police Commission, which have received the approval of the Secretary of State and the Government of India.

Sir John Strachey, one of the most ardent champions of Indian bureaucracy, has observed that the India of to-day is no more like the India of Lord Ellenborough than the England of Queen Victoria was like the England of Queen Anne.

The Maharajah of Durbhanga, who was the solitary representative of independent public opinion on the Police Commission, pleaded in vain for compromise.

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A NEW AIRSHIP.

Marvellous accounts are given in the American papers of the aeroplane invented by Professor Montgomery, of Santa Clara College, California. His invention, it is stated, is a "winged affair, wings like those of the bird. He has copied from Nature's own scheme for flight."

SECRET MARRIAGE TO A COACHEMAN.

THE MILLIONAIRE SATISFIED.

New York, April 19.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the well-known millionaire, caused a mild sensation to-day by announcing that his niece, Miss Nancy Carnegie, of Pittsburgh, has been married to-day to Mr. James Hever, a former riding-master to the family.

Mr. Carnegie said to-day that Hever was an honest, upright young man, and the family made no objection to the match.

Mrs. Hever is a beautiful young woman of twenty-four years of age, fond of outdoor life, and has mixed little with society.

Despite Mr. Carnegie's assertion of harmony, it is reported that his niece's family were bitterly opposed to the match, and still refuse to be reconciled.

Mr. Carnegie it is reported, presented his niece with £5,000 as a wedding present, and expressed great admiration for her democratic ideas of marriage.

A BATTLE OF WRESTLERS.

JIU-JITSU v. CATCH-AS-CATCH-CAN.

A wrestling match which promises to rival in interest the famous meeting between Hackenschmidt and Madrali at Olympia, is to take place shortly in London.

Sir, As champion catch-as-catch-can wrestler of the world, I beg to issue through the columns of the 'Express' a challenge to Taro Myaki, champion jiu-jitsu wrestler of Japan, to wrestle with me in catch-as-catch-can style for the world's championship.

In order to make sure that so interesting a contest should take place, the Editor of the 'Express' informed Myaki of Carroll's challenge, and offered to make all arrangements for a meeting between the two champions.

PETROLEUM OUTPUT INCREASES.

It is not a little remarkable that side by side with the increased use and value of natural gas, the output of petroleum should also be on the increase.

GIVE CHAMBERLAIN'S PAIN BALM A TRIAL.

No other liniment affords such prompt relief from rheumatic pains. No other is so valuable for deep seated pains like lame back and pains in the chest.

THE BENEFICENT BANANA.

Professors of Dietetics tell us that the banana is not, as so many fruits are, a flavour and nothing more, but a food and a source of real nutriment. It is at once useful and delicious. It not only gratifies the palate, but supplies material for combustion and the maintenance of animal heat; while it also builds up the muscles and repairs the worn and threadbare nerves.

But it is in the fresh state, clad in its primrose tunic—the stripping off of which is in itself a fascinating operation—that the banana chiefly appeals to us.

Dependent as that sapor is on an ethereal body which the coal-tar investigators have not yet been able to imitate by any chemical essence, it is a subtle stimulus to all subsequent alimentary processes.

The banana is not what is called an acquired taste. An appreciation, of it is not reached through slow stages of diminishing repulsion, but comes at the moment of first introduction. It is acceptable at all ages.

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The Americans have learned the merits of Jamaica bananas. Before the hurricanes of August, 1903, no fewer than twenty-one boats per week left Jamaica for the United States laden with bananas, and notwithstanding the devastation then wrought, the export to the United States is now larger than ever.

I have said that as food nothing can be better than the Martinique banana, but if other varieties are desired she will not be slow to furnish them.

A popular American society lady, whose husband is described as being "merely moderately wealthy" spent \$2,500 on wearing apparel last year.

ALL CHEMISTS AND STORE KEEPER PRICE, 1 Re. 2 Rs.



