

The Next Solar Eclipse.

An excellent view of the total eclipse of the sun May 28, which will be one of the great events of 1900, may be had at Pinehurst. Speaking of the eclipse the *New York Sun* says:

American astronomers will not have to go to the ends of the earth to witness the total eclipse of the sun that will occur on May 28, this year. Its path is situated most conveniently for the East Gulf and South Atlantic States. Mexicans on the Pacific Coast a little South of Lower California may see the eclipse at sunrise. The path of totality, about fifty miles wide, crosses Mexico and the northwestern part of the Gulf, enters the United States a little north of the Mississippi delta, runs nearly parallel with our South Atlantic coast line and emerges at Norfolk. The total phase will also be seen in Portugal and Algiers and will terminate in the Red Sea. No part of the path is likely to offer equal advantages to that in this country for observing the total phases of the eclipse and expeditions from all astronomical centres throughout the world will be sent to the United States to observe the solar and atmospheric phenomena visible during the period of totality.

An unusual opportunity will also be afforded to many of our own people to see what astronomers call the most wonderful spectacle their science affords, the solar corona, which encircles the dark body of the moon like a halo or crown of light. Some of our largest Southern cities, including New Orleans, Mobile, Montgomery, Raleigh and Norfolk lie within the path of totality, and several, including New Orleans and Norfolk, are on the central line of the path where the total phase may be longest observed. This is a favorable circumstance, as large numbers will be able to see the total phase, and astronomers who frequently must establish their stations in out-of-the-way parts of the world can observe the eclipse without inconvenience.

As many astronomers have announced their intention to establish stations along the shadow path and carry out an extensive series of scientific observations, the United States Weather Bureau has tried to facilitate their work. Over three years ago it undertook a survey of the sky along the path of totality to determine the probable cloudiness and find out the places where the sky is likely to be freer from clouds than anywhere else. With the aid of volunteer observers these investigations have been carried on at from sixty-six to eighty-eight stations and the final report from Prof. F. H. Bigelow has just been printed as a bulletin of the Weather Bureau. The observations were taken from May 15 to June 15 each year. They tend to show that the low altitude of the morning sun will not be an unfavorable circumstance in the Southern States and that cloudiness diminishes from the Atlantic coast near Norfolk towards Georgia, and also from the Gulf coast near New Orleans toward the same region. The report says that the most favorable area for escaping the tendency to cloudiness, and therefore the best region for the eclipse stations, as far as that consideration is concerned, is central Georgia and eastern Alabama. The observations have been conducted on so large a scale for three years that the deductions from them seem decisive.

Long eclipses lasting five or six min-

utes are of rare occurrence. The total phase of the 1900 eclipse will last in the United States from one minute and thirteen seconds to one minute and forty-two seconds, only. It is to be hoped that the observers may have an unobscured view of it.

Hotel Rules.

A pun, somebody has said, is the lowest form of wit, yet a collection of puns can be very amusing. Some facetious person has achieved the following hotel rules:

Board, fifty cents per square foot. Meals, extra. Guests are requested not to speak to the dumb-waiter. Guests wishing to get up without being called can have self-raising flour for supper. Guests wishing to do a little driving will find hammer and nails in the closet. If the room gets too warm, open the window and see the fire escape. If you're fond of athletics and like good jumping, lift the mattress and see the bed spring. Baseballists desiring a little practice will find a pitcher on the stand. If the lamp goes out take a feather out of the pillow; that's light enough for any room. Any one troubled with nightmare will find a halter on the bedpost. Don't worry about paying your bill; the house is supported by its foundations.—*Exchange.*

PUNGENCIES.

Bystander (to painter at work on a fence). "I suppose you call yourself an artist?" Painter. "Not at all. There's good money in the work I do.—*Exchange.*

Harriet. "Do you think it wicked to play golf on Sunday?" Harry. "I think it wicked to play it on any day. Only think of the language one has to employ to do justice to his feelings when making a bad play!"—*Exchange.*

Mrs. Fogg. "Do you think it gentlemanly to smoke in the presence of ladies?" Mr. Fogg. "Do you think it ladylike for women to intrude themselves in places where men want to smoke?"—*Exchange.*

Hedrikton. "Are you familiar with the Gudjuns who live next to you on your street?" Sanbliss. "Oh, dear, no. We sometimes borrow their lawnmower or get them to feed our cat when we are away, but nothing more than that."—*Exchange.*

Hilton. "Congratulate me, old fellow. Miss Sweetser has accepted me, and we are to be married next month. Only think of it! It was only a few weeks ago she declared she wouldn't marry the best man on earth." Wilton. "If she only sticks to that, you are all right."—*Exchange.*

She. "Come, now, how old do you think I am?" He. "Oh, I don't know. Probably about thirty." She. "Mercy! I'm not twenty-five yet." He. "I beg your pardon. I thought I was safe in putting it at least ten years younger than you look; but it is always my luck to make a blunder."—*Exchange.*

His Disadvantage.

"How did that Scotchman enjoy golf over here?"

"He said our game was all right, but he couldn't catch on to our dialect."—*Chicago Record.*

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