

INVISIBLE ELECTRIC CURRENT

Only Man Who Could Really Understand Mysterious Current—Campaign to Have Principles Understood by the Public.

"The man who conceived the idea of a fourth dimension," said the Bromide, "is the only sort of man who could really understand the action of electric current."

"The Sulphite looked pained. 'What is your trouble?' he asked. 'We know more about the action of electric current than we do about the law of gravitation.'"

"The Sulphite was the foremost engineer of the Crocker-Wheeler Company, which is making a campaign to have the principles of electricity understood. Bromide remarks like the above, and the fact that the public will accept electricity's first cousin, heat, and all its manifestations, but balks at electricity itself, are equally irritating to its engineers."

"That's all very well for you to say," replied the Bromide, "but do you remember how Newton discovered the law of gravitation? He saw a manifestation of it. He saw an apple fall out of a tree. I can see an apple fall out of a tree, but I can't see electric current."

"Do you remember how Benjamin Franklin flashed for an electric current with a kite?" said the Sulphite. "He saw an electric storm."

"But there are constant natural manifestations of the law of gravitation," said the Bromide. "You see them all the time. One reason why the idea of electric current is more difficult to grasp is that we don't see its manifestations so often."

"Oh, Great White Way, where is thy lustre?" mourned the Sulphite. "But I see what you mean. Electric current moves in solid substances—generally in wires. Therefore it is more difficult to observe the cause from the effect."

"Exactly," said the Bromide. "What moves? How do you know it moves? I'm from Missouri!"

"Until a decade or two ago," said the Sulphite patiently, "it was only in fairy tales that makes to the magic of a kind but indiscreet fairy, a charming prince, could gaze through a solid wall at the beautiful imprisoned princess. Now the roentgen ray is familiar to everyone."

"I'll even admit that I can see through a solid substance," said the Bromide obstinately, "because I've done it. But, as I remarked before, you can't see an electric current move."

"Have you ever thrown a stone into a pond?" the Sulphite inquired mildly. "Why, yes."

"And have you seen the ripples traveling toward the shore?" "Yes."

"What was it that traveled?" "Why, the ripples traveled. Do you think that this is a kindergarten?"

"Yes," said the Sulphite gently, "it is. What is a ripple?" "An undulation in the water."

"Does the part of the water disturbed by the impact of the stone reach the shore?" "Why, no. It's the ripple."

"Exactly," said the Sulphite, "electric current is the ripple. Did you ever shake a stretched clothesline?"

"Yes," replied the Bromide suspiciously. "What of it?"

"Have you noticed how the undulations, or waves of motion, seemed to travel along the rope?" "Seemed to travel? Why, the undulations did travel."

"But the substance of the rope remained the same, did it not?" "Of course, it did."

"Are you beginning to see how motion, heat, energy, electric current, call it what you will, can travel through a substance without visibly disturbing or changing its component parts?"

"Yes, but you are not trying to tell me that they telegraph from New York to San Francisco by shaking the wires up and down!"

"No," said the Sulphite, "it's a stress."

"Distress, I should call it," blurted the Bromide.

The Sulphite smiled. "I've proved to you," he said, "that motion can travel along a solid substance and arrive at its destination without disturbing the component parts of the substance."

"Yes," interrupted the Bromide eagerly, "but not a rigid substance. Water isn't even a solid substance, and a rope isn't rigid."

"Imagine," said the Sulphite, "two men who have hold of opposite ends of a long pole. One is trying to twist it in one direction and the other in the opposite direction."

"Something like a cane spree at college," ventured the Bromide.

"Similar in the expenditure of effort," corrected the Sulphite. "If the men were evenly matched the pole might not move at all, but lots of stress is being applied to it. If the pole were of soft wood it might give a little. Anyway there would be an internal stress."

The Bromide began to get excited. "I see," he said. "Go on."

"When the stress became great enough the wood would cease to give, and the pole would begin to turn. That is work, motion, a physical manifestation of the power expended on the pole would occur when it began to slip through the grip of the weaker man. What would you say the power expended had done?"

"Why, it had overcome the resistance of the weaker man and done his work in turning the pole. But then the stronger man would have to keep applying more power."

stance. I have shown you how it can be done. It is done every day in the year on a million engine shafts, and the propeller shafts of great ocean-going liners. This is mechanical power."

"Well," said the Bromide, conceding the point, "what does electric current do when it gets there? In what form does it come out at the other end of the wire if the wire is not twisting or undulating?"

"It comes out in the form of motion which is dangerously akin to heat," replied the Sulphite. "Heat has been defined as molecular motion. All molecules are in motion constantly as you would see if you could magnify any small solid substance to the size of the earth. The faster the molecules move the larger their orbits, and the substance expands. This effect is known as heat."

"Then electricity is some kind of a stress or twisting of the molecules in the same way that heat is a motion of the molecules?"

"Exactly. And the chief problem of the electrical engineer is to keep his electric current stresses from degenerating into heat motions. If his wire, for instance, is too small to carry the current it gets heated and some of the electricity is destroyed."

"Why doesn't heat stay in one place?" asked the Sulphite. "Heat runs to the end of a poker red hot, and the other end will soon become too hot for you to handle."

"I know that's true, but why is it?" "Because heat is a motion of the molecules. Closely grouped as they are, the molecules of solid bodies cannot oscillate without communicating their motion to neighboring molecules. This propagation of the motion of heat from molecule to molecule is called conduction of heat."

"And is the conduction of electricity the same sort of process?" "Exactly. Only electricity moves infinitely more rapidly, because it is a more orderly motion. There is what I should call more team work among the molecules twisted by an electric current than the molecules moved by heat. When the molecules have no motion at all the substance is at 'absolute zero'—about 461 degrees below Fahrenheit, or 273.7 degrees below zero Centigrade."

"B-r-r-r!" said the Bromide.

The conviction in a Federal court of 38 men, including nearly the entire official staff of the International Association of Bridges and Iron Workers, of conspiracy in the promotion of explosions in non-union works, does not carry with it severe punishment for the guilty men, even when their conspiracy resulted in the loss of many lives, but it is nevertheless a lesson of the chief-reaching influence. It is again demonstrated that the arm of the law, when earnestly invoked, is long and strong, and that justice can not be intimidated, even by the threat of the dynamite bomb.—Columbia State.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 28. — William Little, 24 years of age, died in a hospital here last night as the result of injuries received a few hours earlier when a southbound Louisville & Nashville passenger train crashed into a wagon in which he was riding at Lyndon, a suburb. Mrs. Henry Hart, who also was in the wagon, was injured only slightly. Little recently was released from the reform school here, where he served a four-year term for alleged conspiracy in the murder of his foster father, William Dudgeon, five years ago.

Another effort is being made to wean American women away from French styles. Style independence is the slogan of the movement. If independence means careful regard for the family pocketbook and careful avoidance of freak clothes the new movement will have the backing of at least the husbands in America. It remains to be seen whether the accusation is true that "women are like sheep when it comes to styles, and Paris is the bell wether."—Savannah News.

In Bavaria the administration which operates the railways maintains also an automobile service on 53 routes permanently, and on 8 more during the Summer, carrying passengers and mail and parcels. The service has been profitable, the expense per motor car mile being 15 cents and the earnings nearly 20 cents and the net for all the lines amounting to \$38,000.

The rule as to windows in passenger cars in Germany has been that they must not be opened on both sides of the car without the consent of all occupying the compartment. Now on city and suburban trains in Berlin neither window in the front compartment of each car may be opened without such unanimous consent.

It might be well next year to send your gift far in advance of Christmas. So that the recipient need not have to shop late to pay you back.—Savannah News.

One of Germany's numerous dirigible balloons has made more than 100 journeys with passengers without a single mishap.

LOW EXCURSION RATES via ATLANTIC COAST LINE account CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

Reduced rate Round Trip tickets will be on sale at all stations on the Atlantic Coast Line to all points south of the Ohio and Potomac and east of the Mississippi rivers, including Washington, D. C.; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Evansville, Ind., for all trains on December 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31 and January 1—limited returning, to reach original starting point returning no later than midnight of January 6, 1913.

For further particulars, schedules, rates, reservations, etc., apply to Atlantic Coast Line Ticket Agents, or address, T. C. WHITE, General Passenger Agent, W. J. CRAIG, Passenger Traffic Manager, Wilmington, N. C.

do 11-1f. (Advertisement.)

MARY'S LITTLE LAMB

Really Did Follow Her to School and Was Ejected by Teacher

It is pleasant to find that John Roulstone's "Mary had a little Lamb" was based on fact. In 1814 Roulstone was studying for the ministry in the town of Sterling, near Worcester, Mass., and Mary Sawyer, a school girl of 8, lived in the vicinity. She afterward became Mrs. Taylor and the monument which surmounts her grave in the old cemetery at Waverly, Mass., tells her history.

The incident, which Roulstone made famous in verse, as related by Mary's old school teacher, Rebekah Kimball, deviates in some way from the verse. It is true that the lamb on the morning in question followed Mary and her brother Nat, to school. They discovered it as they were crossing a stone wall and at the suggestion of Nat, the lamb was brought into the school house and hid in one of the desks, but it was discovered by the teacher and the little woolly animal was removed by Mary.

Since it has been shown to be foolish to try to shoot icebergs to pieces with the navy's guns there seems no reason why heavily armed vessels should be sent into the steamship lanes during the Spring as guards for shipping. The use of the cruisers Birmingham and Chester proved expensive because of their large displacement of coal. The use of colliers or gunboats is recommended in their stead. Equipped with wireless the smaller vessels will serve the same purpose as the cruisers at much less cost and aside from the difference in speed should render just as effective service in an emergency.—Savannah News.

Pennsylvania far outranks all other States in the value of its mineral output. In 1912 this State contributed, exclusive of pig iron, 24.7 per cent of the total mineral output of the United States. The reason for Pennsylvania's undisputed leadership lies primarily, according to the United States Geological Survey, in its great production of coal. It is almost exclusively the source of anthracite, and produces over one-third of the total bituminous output. Pennsylvania ranks second next to New York, in the value of its manufactures, and stands first as a mineral producer in cement, coal, coke, pig iron, lime, mineral paints, sand and gravel, and building stone.

Parents of St. Louis school children are angry because a delicate combination teacher told the children there is no such being as Santa Claus. Doesn't every grownup remember the day when he first learned the mythical nature of the childhood saint? Wasn't it like losing one's very best friend? The problem of the child, the truth about Santa has been discussed so much that it has become wearisome, but most parents will agree with those St. Louis papas and mamas.—Savannah News.

The reason Vinol builds up weak ailing children so quickly is because it contains in a delicate combination the two most world famous tonics—i. e., the strength-creating, body-building elements of cod liver oil, with all the useless grease eliminated, and tonic iron for the blood added. If you have a weak, puny, ailing child try Vinol. Our offer is to refund your money if it fails to benefit your little one.—Robt. R. Bellamy, druggist, Wilmington, N. C. (Advertisement.)

MOTHERS OF PUNY CHILDREN May Find Help in This Letter "My little daughter ever since her birth had been frail and sickly, and was a constant source of worry. Several months ago I secured a bottle of Vinol and commenced to give it to her. I soon noticed an improvement in her health and appearance. I gave her in all three bottles and from the good it has done her I can truly say it will do all you claim." J. Edmund Miller, New Haven, Conn.

FOR WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT

The hearing on the Mississippi river's difficulties, in the discussion of the levee problem, disclosed that local co-operation in levee work had made excellent progress up to the disastrous flood of early last Summer, the extent of the vast destructiveness of which convinced all interests that the safest dependence to prevent the recurrence of these numerous disasters is for the Federal government to be given complete control of the construction and care of the levees of the great water highway. It was particularly emphasized that the speediest possible improvement in accord with the policy was now more than ever manifestly the most vitally important of all river projects, in view of the approaching completion and opening to the commerce of the world of the Panama Canal.

The estimates from the engineers of the army for all river and harbor improvements call for the expenditure of about \$44,000,000.

There are millions more already involved in former recommendations. At the first meeting of the Rivers and Harbors Committee after the holidays an effort will be made looking to an adjustment of the difficulties indicated, and paring the amounts as far as possible to an equitable basis of distribution, keeping in mind always the two considerations of public economy and the superior importance of public works already projected or commenced.

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By having your Body as well as your Heart Well Clothed. Striking the Right and Proper Place to do your purchasing is another good thing. You will find that in our store, where goods are at One Price, and merchandise is of the Standard.

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(Continued from Page Nine.)

cooperative practice on the Mississippi river, particularly in levee improvements, and on the upper Ohio, at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, involving lock and dam construction and flood prevention projects.

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VICK'S CROUP AND SALVE



Dear Amy: All of last year I went through without furnishing my home but I'm going to say this: I owe a duty to my children, to give them a nicely furnished home, and I do feel ashamed when friends come in.

I have just been looking at some new furniture. They look so attractive to me that I bought lots of new things and ordered them sent right out.

Give my love to Bob and kiss the kiddies for me. Always your friend, LOU. P. S.—I almost forgot to tell you I bought my new furniture from

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