

of light, one of the most fundamental quantities of science, will be made on Mount. Wilson Observatory by Prof. A. A. Michelsen of the University of Chicago. The present value determined by Foucault is uncertain to 1 part in 10,000. —*Ibid.*

The reservoir built by Pontius Pilate 2,000 years ago, 13 miles south of Jerusalem, has been enlarged to hold 5,000,000 gallons of water. Before the engineering work, the Holy City was dependent upon local rainfall for its water. Some of the cisterns in which the rain was collected had not been cleaned for 100 years or more. —*Ibid.*

Germany make the best dyes in the world.

Yes that may be! But none of them will take out that yellow streak in William. —*Ibid.*

RAILWAY BRIDGE GIVES WAY.

The south end of the American Railroad bridge over San Antonio channel gave way shortly before Wednesday noon when a flat-car, one in a long string of box-cars, became derailed causing the other cars to jam into the bridge super-structure, carrying it away and dumping two cars of bagged sugar into the water and killing one peon who had been working on the bridge.

The accident has made railroad traffic into San Juan proper impossible for the present and it will be some weeks before the bridge can be replaced. —*Porto Rico Progress, Sept. 2nd.*

ARCHITECTURE NEW COURSE AT MAYAGUEZ COLLEGE

The announcement or catalog of the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts has just been issued and it offers a preparatory course and collegiate courses leading to the degree of bachelor of science in agriculture, mechanical, civil and electrical engineering, general sciences and sugar chemistry. Enrollment will begin September 13th and classes will be started Monday the 19th, in all departments.

Beginning in September of this year a course in architecture will be given in the college. Professor Frederick W. Revels, head of the department of architecture in Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, has consented to spend the school year here and direct the establishment of this course. As Syracuse is recognized as having one of the best departments of architecture to be found, the college considers itself fortunate in securing the services of Professor Revels.

The exact details of this course have not been worked out at the time of publication of the catalog, but is definitely known now that only those will be ad-

mitted to the course who are of collegiate grade. —*Ibid.*

COWS IN HOLLAND.

The Holstein and other blooded cows of Holland receive far better treatment than is shown a great many people. They are washed, combed, and luxuriously stabled and petted. The Netherlands cow grazes in green, flowery, well-watered fields from the first of May until November. They are then stabled. A cow stable in Holland is said to be as clean as a parlor. Many of the stables have a strip of oilcloth down the wide center aisle which is always immaculate while high up on both sides there are rows of small windows, which are quite often curtained, and pots of blooming flowers are seen on the window-sills. Beneath each window in the cow-stall, perhaps twenty or more in all. The floor is of procelain, and thickly bedded with sawdust. Before and behind each stall runs a trough of clear water. The first for the cow to drink from the second to cleanse away all impurities. A hook is placed in the ceiling over each stall upon which the cow's tail is suspended so that it will not become soiled after the regular daily grooming, for once a day these fortunate animals are put through a process of careful washing with warm soap-suds, drying, rubbing, combing and general inspection, which, no doubt, well repays their owners for all their trouble. —*Everyday Life.*

IRON WITH THEIR FEET

If you were to visit a tailor shop in Cairo you would see one of the strangest sights in the world. In the bazaars tailors still use their feet in ironing and pressing clothing. A heavy, broad flat-iron with a high handle is used, and a block of wood is fitted in over the hot iron, upon which the tailor places his foot. The goods or clothing is placed upon a pad on the floor and the posture assumed by the workman appears awkward in the extreme, but he dexterously, and successfully manipulates the iron by means of the handle with his foot and it seems to cause him no inconvenience whatever. —*Ibid.*

NINE-FOOT SKELETON IN MOUND.

A human skeleton between eight and nine feet tall was in a prehistoric mound near Greensburg, Pa. The bones are to be exhibited at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburg. A mummified torso of a human body was also found in the mound. This is estimated to be 4000 years old or more. —*The Pathfinder, September 3rd.*

EARTH NIPPED COMET'S TAIL.

These are days when there are strange

signs and omens in evidence. At sunset of Aug. 7 the astronomers of the Lick observatory in California observed a strange object in the western sky, very close to the sun. It was visible to the naked eye and was brighter than Venus. Some authorities thought it must be a "nova" or a new star, while others believed it must be the head of a comet, or a fragment of one. Observers at the naval observatory at Washington and other astronomers in this country have been keeping up a steady search since then but have not identified anything strange.

At the observatory of Heidelberg, Germany, however, it was announced later that the earth had passed through the tail of a comet on the night of Aug. 8. The object noted by the Lick astronomers was no doubt a huge meteoric body given off by the comet when swishing by the earth. It may have fallen to the earth but if so its fall has not been reported. —*Ibid.*

SAHARA NOT ALWAYS A DESERT.

A French explorer and geographer claims to have found evidence that a great river once flowed across what is now the Sahara desert to the Mediterranean. The present Lake Tchad, he believes, represents what was formerly the backwater of this river. The level of this lake is not constant in modern times; in the past 25 years its waters have been slowly falling though at times after periods of unusual rainfall the lake has spread beyond its usual bed. Neolithic relics which have been found indicate that prosperous communities once dotted what is now a vast parched desert region. —*Ibid.*

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