



Type: Magazine Article

Exploring the Universe

Author(s): Franklin S. Harris, Jr.

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 40, No. 3 (March 1937), p. 159

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Abstract: Refers to evidence about the existence of elephants in ancient New Mexico.

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE

By FRANKLIN S. HARRIS, JR.

FUNGI OF which molds and mildew are examples, that kill flies, mosquitoes, and other harmful insects, have been raised by a German botanist. A new method now makes possible growing them in large quantities.

RECENTLY a leg was successfully transplanted from one rat to another. This is the first time this has been accomplished with higher animals without loss of the use of the muscles.

MADE FROM coal, limestone, and water a new artificial rubber, buna, is under way in Germany. Two other types of rubber are being used in America. Not exactly the same as natural rubber, they are actually better for many purposes. One, chloroprene, not only equals the natural product in strength, toughness, and elasticity, but it can take more punishment from its traditional enemies of oxygen, heat, sunlight, and oils.



GREEN LIGHT is poisonous to one-celled plants.

IT HAS been demonstrated that cells "drink" fluid from their surroundings.

EPILEPTIC seizures have been successfully predicted by means of brain wave studies. Measuring the electrical activity of the brain it was found that characteristic changes occurred 18 or even 24 hours before a seizure.

NEW EVIDENCE that elephants lingered on in America after the arrival of man here has been discovered at Folsom, New Mexico. The prehistoric elephants were trapped in a bog where the hunters killed them with pointed spears. One of the ancient hunter's weapons was under the spine, another in a shoulder blade, and another between the forelimbs of a beast.

SINCE 1900, the eleven years from the age of 48 to 59 have been added to the average man's life and twelve years, from an average of 51 then to now 63 to woman's, according to the



U. S. Bureau of Census. The extra years of life are credited to "improved sanitation, higher standard of living, labor-saving inventions in the homes and advances made in education and in the science and practice of medicine and surgery."

SIR ARTHUR EDDINGTON has a number which he believes stands for the total number in the universe of subatomic or the smallest known parts of matter. It is 3,145 followed by 76 zeros.

THE FINDING of a humped bull, 5000 years old, links ancient India and Mesopotamia. The bull, with curving horns and a monstrous hump on his back was a familiar figure in the ancient art of India but was found in Mesopotamia.

DR. HRDLICKA has found hundreds of once inhabited locations on the Aleutian Islands, which swing out west of Alaska toward Asia. Many of these places were inhabited in pre-Russian times and in the days when America was being populated. Dr. Hrdlicka thinks some wanderers drifted to America by this route in addition to Bering Strait farther north which was a primary highway.



FRESH WATER can be made from sea water by simply passing it through a tube. The tubes are made of a synthetic resin made from formalin and tannic acid by English chemists.

TESTS HAVE been made on the effects of ethyl alcohol when inhaled by breathing through the nose over an open vessel filled with alcohol. It was found that this lowered the respiration or rate of breathing 3 to 8 times per minute and the pulse sank 8 beats. Other research reports that drunkenness is caused by the alcohol depriving the body of oxygen. As a treatment to lower the alcohol in the blood combined oxygen and carbon dioxide was found to be useful, this also improved the mental and physical ability.

WOOD DRIED artificially in Germany at a temperature of up to 212° Fahrenheit, the boiling temperature of water, showed in later use a 20-25% smaller change in size than did naturally dried and seasoned wood.

OATS SOAKED in a solution of a growth-promoting substance before planting have produced stronger plants and 55 per cent more grain than untreated seeds.



THERE are insects now living as large as many birds. There are beetles in South America seven inches long and two and one-half inches wide.

A NEW electrical stethoscope in portable form will enable the doctor to increase the heart sounds about a hundred times that of the old familiar type. Doctors may soon be carrying two black bags, one for the stethoscope, when making calls.

TREPHINGING, new to the ancient civilization of the old world, has been found on some skulls of about 1300 B. C., discovered in Palestine. The ancient Incas in America also used to cut out part of the skull to relieve pressure on the brain.

TO GET a unit of length for the metric system, eighteenth century French scientists measured as nearly as they could one-ten-millionth of the distance from the north pole to the equator, and this became the meter.