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MR. GEORGE ARLISS
Diairesi

ENGINEERING AND SCIENTIFIC NOTES

We are all doubtless somewhat familiar with the methods of weather prediction by means of a study of the barometer and the location of low pressure regions, but the idea of weather forecasting by observation of sun-spots is doubtless new to some of us. The current issue of the Technical World contains an article by Prof. J. S. Richard of the Santa Clara, California, in which he states that he is prepared to forecast coming storms by observation of the sun-spots from the University Observatory. He has made a careful and extensive study of these mysterious dark spots on the sun for a period of over six years, and he announces as the result of his investigations that invariably when a spot reaches a certain location on the sun's surface a storm, or at least a severe meteorological disturbance, always strikes the coast of California and starts an easterly journey across the continent, its exact course being rendered erratic by local conditions. It takes these storms from five to seven days to reach the Atlantic coast, and in three days more they have crossed to the European shore where they spend themselves out. A spot requires 12 1-2 days to cross the face of the sun and 14 days to return and become visible again. Table was given showing the remarkable coincidence between a long list of predicted and actual storms, which indeed seems to add much weight to the proposition that terrestrial weather is connected in some way or other with the spots on the surface of the sun over 90 million miles away. Prof. Richard's unique explanation of the sun spots may be stated as follows: The sun is an enormous envelop of gaseous matter in a highly incandescent state. When two planets, such as Jupiter and the earth, in the course of the orbits come in a straight line with each other and the sun, and their combined attraction on the latter is sufficient to pull out a portion of the gaseous matter into colder regions, so that it is cooled down and becomes consequently darker in comparison with the rest of the sun's mass. Just how such an action can have an effect on the weather is indeed a puzzle for scientists.

Experiments on the velocity of Hertzian waves recently conducted in France show them to have a velocity of 295,990 kilometers per second, a somewhat different value from that of light waves, 300,000 kilometers per second. Endeavors are to be made to see if Hertzian waves travel with different velocities over land and water. These facts have an important bearing upon the theory of light and electricity.

FACULTY NOTICE

The exercises of the Institute will be suspended on Monday, October 13th.

A. L. Merrill, Secretary.

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