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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1882.

Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as 'Air, foul, in school rooms', 'Inventions, engineering', 'Darwin, Charles', etc., with corresponding page numbers.

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THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT

No. 330,

For the Week ending April 29, 1882.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers.

Detailed table of contents for the supplement, including sections on Engineering and Mechanics, Technology and Chemistry, Electricity, etc., with page numbers.

CHARLES DARWIN.

Charles Robert Darwin, whose influence upon the current of modern thought has been surpassed by no other scientific investigator, died at his residence near Orpington, England, Wednesday, April 19.

Mr. Darwin was born at Shrewsbury, England, February 12, 1809, inheriting rare qualities for scientific observation and philosophic thought. His father was a worthy though not eminent member of the Royal Society, and his grandfather was the celebrated Erasmus Darwin, author of "The Botanic Garden." His maternal grandfather was the founder of the famous pottery works at Etruria, Josiah Wedgwood, also a member of the Royal Society.

His early education was received at the public school in Shrewsbury, whence he passed to the University of Edinburgh, where he spent two years. He then went to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he was graduated in 1831. His bent for natural research was not diverted by his schooling; and soon after his graduation he read a paper on marine zoology, giving such promise of scientific ability that he was offered the position of naturalist on the now historic Beagle, soon to start on a cruise of scientific exploration round the world.

Returning from this voyage in 1836 Darwin made ready for publication his "Journal of Researches," and in 1840-42 he edited the "Zoology of the Voyage of the Beagle." Shortly after he published his classic works on "The Structure and Distribution of Coral Reefs." These works were rapidly followed by "Geological Observations on Volcanic Islands," in 1844, and "Geological Observations in South America," in 1846. Meantime his contributions to scientific publications and the transactions of scientific societies were numerous and valuable, as they were throughout his long and active life.

The two-volume "Monograph of the Family Cirripedia," was published in 1851 and 1853, and soon after his two volumes on the fossil species of the same family. In 1853 the Royal Society awarded him the royal medal, and in 1859 he received the Wollaston medal of the Geological Society.

THE LOSS OF THE ARCTIC SEARCH STEAMER RODGERS.

The Arctic search steamer Rodgers, which was so successful last summer in the exploration of Herald Island and Wrangell Island, has met with disaster at St. Lawrence Bay Northern Siberia, whither she had gone for winter quarters. The Rodgers arrived in St. Lawrence Bay October 15, and was burned January 1, 1882.

Intelligence of the loss was first received April 18, through Mr. Jackson, Herald correspondent, with the party in search of the lost crew of the Jeannette, who met, on the 6th, a courier from Mr. W. H. Gilder, of the Rodgers, who had reached Verkhoyansk, about four hundred miles north of Yakutsk.

assist the shipwrecked crew. Three months' provisions were saved from the ship. Tupkan is near Cape Serdze Kamen.

Society of Mechanical Engineers.

The annual convention of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers began in Philadelphia, April 19, Prof. R. H. Thurston, of the Stevens Institute, in the chair. The roll of membership now contains three hundred and twenty-five names. The first paper was read by W. R. Eckert, mining engineer, Comstock Mines, on "The Chronograph for Engineering Purposes, with the Hipp Escapement."

The afternoon was devoted to eulogies of the late Alexander H. Holley. An oration was delivered by James C. Bayles, after which speeches were made by Professor Thurston, Coleman Sellers, of Philadelphia; Eckley B. Cox, of Luzerne County, Pa.; J. C. Hoadley, of Boston; R. W. Hunt, of Troy; William Metcalf, of Pittsburg; Charles T. Porter, of Philadelphia; J. T. Holloway, of Cleveland; L. B. Moore and W. E. Partridge, of New York city.

The Glossograph.

A speech recorder called a glossograph has been invented by A. Gentili, of Vienna. It is described as a combination of delicate levers and blades, which, being placed upon the tongue and lips and under the nostrils of a speaker, are vibrated by the movements of the former and the breath flowing from the latter.

Hansom Cabs.

The first extensive introduction and use of Hansom cabs in this country is to take place in Philadelphia, Pa., in a short time, by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The cabs are to be constructed in the best manner after the English pattern, and a contract for thirty has been given to the enterprising Connecticut firm of carriage builders, Messrs. Hincks & Johnson.

The experiment will be watched with interest, and, if successful, will probably lead to the extensive introduction of these cabs in other cities.

Dry Separation of Gold from Sand.

A novel apparatus for separating gold from sand without the use of water was recently completed and tested in this city. It is intended for use in the placer regions of the West, Mexico, and Central America, where gold-bearing sand is found at a distance from water sufficient for hydraulic mining.

Melting Point of Fats.

The method adopted by the "Society for the Mineral Oil Industry," in Halle a. S. is to be preferred for the safest and most accurate results above all other methods. Instead of determining the melting point they use the solidifying point as a basis for their results.

Relative Safety of Anæsthetics.

Dr. Ormsby, of the Meath Hospital, Dublin, has compiled the following table of the absolute and the relative mortality caused by the use of the leading anæsthetics.

Table with 5 columns: Agent employed, Deaths, Admsns., Deaths, Admsns. Rows include Ether, Chloroform, Mixture of chloroform with ether, Bichloride of mythy lene.

Restoring Worn Coins.

Recently while Dr. A. H. Best, of Savannah, Ga., was silver-plating a small article with silver cyanide solution, he used an old Spanish silver coin as anode.