that subsequent erosion has recut the old valleys down to about the same point they originally were; but in so doing, the newer cut is often somewhat narrower than the former valley, leaving undisturbed Pleistocene remnants along the sides of the valleys. An area some hundred and twenty-five miles in extent was examined by the writer, and similar conditions were noted over quite an extended area, whose limits are not exactly known. The deposit in which the bison and artifacts noted was found is such an old remnant, and is obviously undisturbed. Only a narrow strip of Pleistocene beds remain between the present stream erosion and the old Triassic former valley wall.

The bison and other fossils occur in solidly cemented gravels, overlain by about five to seven feet of undisturbed Pleistocene sands and gravels, that are cemented so hard by calcareous cement that the beds are worked with difficulty, especially when dry. On top of these sands is a disturbed bed of uncertain age, and above this several feet of worked-over sands, silts and soil. The bones found are all well fossilized, and in a state that it would be utterly impossible for erosion to have moved them, without breaking them up and disarticulating the bones, and largely destroying them. Every observed condition clearly points to an undisturbed deposit, and free from such cross-channeling as has worked the materials over at Vero, Florida. The bison pertains to one of the earliest stages of the refilling process in laying down these Pleistocene gravels and is just above the old Triassic floor. It is probable that the bison had been shot and carried these flint points with him to the place where he finally died and was entombed.

Mr. Vaughan went with the writer to this locality and over the region. Further excavation showed the presence of other bones in position; and the deposits were examined for more than a mile up the little valley of Lone Wolf Creek, above the quarry site. Similar bones and associated types of animals were found in all places where fossils could be located. In these lower beds, beside the extinct bison, a large species of *Elephas*, *Equus* and a camel probably belonging to the genus *Camelus* or *Camelops* were discovered, and some other unidentified bones. All fossils found were broken up and scrappy, with the exception of the bison—as is usually the case and to be expected in beds containing so much coarse gravel. Only in isolated cases is it possible to hope to find an associated skeleton in these deposits. The bison belongs to a large species, considerably larger than the modern species, but as yet it has been impossible to give it comparative study and accurate identification. It is mounted and on exhibition in the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, and is a beautiful specimen. The *Elephas* has as yet only had field determination, but belongs to the type closely related to what has been commonly considered the *Elephas columbi* type. The *Equus* is a large species and is represented, as is the *Elephas*, by teeth and lower jaws and odd fragments of bone; but in view of the large number of proposed species in that genus, until close comparisons can be made, no more exact identification is desirable. It is probable that a detailed study of this fauna will make it possible to assign the beds to a definite stage in the Pleistocene.

Mr. Nelson Vaughan has been scouring the region this summer (1925) for further material. As yet his collections are not unpacked for study; but no further articulated skeletons have been found. More detailed reports will shortly appear in the publications of the Colorado Museum of Natural History.

The location of these finds is a point near the Colorado River, near the southeastern end of the Staked Plains, and near the little town of Colorado, Texas, on Lone Wolf Creek.

At present the following points stand out clearly. There is no possibility of accidental inclusion of these artifacts with the bison, or of their being of later age. *They are certainly and positively contemporaneous with that fossil bison and the associated fauna of mammoths, camels and extinct horses*—of a type found elsewhere in beds of known Pleistocene age. Until more detailed studies are made, however, it is not possible to state the age of the deposits more definitely, or to what phase of the Pleistocene they belong.

HAROLD J. COOK

AGATE, NEBRASKA

EGGS SUPPOSED TO BE LUMINOUS

IN my study of Semitic superstitions (comparative religion) I have accumulated a large body of information from many lands relative to *cultus* offered to the "Jack-o'lantern" as a ghost of the dead. In all this lore it is associated with decomposing animal matter, garbage heaps, shallow graves, old privies, kitchen middens, shell-mounds, etc., as well as with marshlands, etc. (The savage mind does not distinguish between the "Jack-o'lantern" drifting in the air as high as the treetops sometimes, and the stationary electric phenomena known as "St. Elmo's Fires," and the local phosphorescence of decayed wood, putrid fish, etc.)

Now, some of the old oriental myths associate mysterious "divine" lights with swan's eggs in the marsh, roc's eggs (see the geni of Aladdin's "lamp" whose "father" was a "roc's egg") and ostrich eggs, which are to-day hung in oriental tomb shrines. This leads me to think that such luminous exhalations or emanations had certainly been observed in connection with

such eggs. I see no reason why such luminous phenomena might not be connected with eggs, as well as with other decomposing animal matter. But I should like to know if any scientific chemist has actually observed such fact. The folk-lore is voluminous and unanimous.

A. H. GODBEY

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THE CONSERVATION OF BEAVER BY AN INDIAN

JIM LAKNITZ, a Gitksan Indian, one of the two leaders in the village of Kitwanga, British Columbia, has an ancestral beaver trapping ground where he is trying to conserve the beaver. The place is an artificial lake formed by a beaver dam about four miles south of the totem poles of Kitwanga. He will neither trap beaver at this place nor allow any one else to do so, but he makes frequent patrols to watch and guard his beaver as he wants them to replenish the trapping ground so he can have good beaver trapping for himself and to leave to his nephew, who in his tribe would be his successor.

How is this for conservation?

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ANDRÉ PARMENTIER AND THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

IN SCIENCE for October 23, 1925 (p. 368) is a news item stating that, "The memory of André Parmentier, horticulturist and founder of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, was honored on October 17 at the unveiling of a tablet within the garden near the entrance at Eastern Parkway."

André Parmentier never had anything to do with the present Brooklyn Botanic Garden. He was a pioneer landscape gardener and nurseryman, who came to this country in 1825 from Belgium and conducted a nursery which was very remarkable for its day. He called his nursery the "Horticultural and Botanic Garden of Brooklyn." It was located about one mile from the location of the present Brooklyn Botanic Garden on an area which is now entirely built over. Its area was about twenty-five acres.

So far as known, this nursery was the first institution in Brooklyn to be called a botanic garden. Of course it only remotely resembled a botanic garden as the term is now understood, and it had no historical or other connection with the present Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The credit for the founding of the present Brooklyn Botanic Garden is due chiefly to the late Mr. Alfred T. White.

The significance of Mr. Parmentier's work lay largely in the fact that he was a pioneer, blazing the trail for horticulture and for beauty in gardening in a place where such work was sorely needed.

C. STUART GAGER

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

QUOTATIONS

"MILLIKAN RAYS"

DR. R. A. MILLIKAN has gone out beyond our highest atmosphere in search for the cause of a radiation mysteriously disturbing the electroscopes of the physicists. This was more difficult of determination than the mathematical location of a planet which had not been seen by any astronomer. The study had to be made out upon the edge of what the report of his discovery calls "finite space," many miles above the surface of the earth in balloons that carry instruments of men's devising where man himself can not go. His patient adventuring observations through twenty years have at last been rewarded. He has brought back to earth a bit more of truth to add to what we knew about the universe. There is no human satisfaction that can be greater than adding even a fragment to the body of ascertained truth.

He found wild rays more powerful and penetrating than any that have been domesticated or terrestrialized, traveling toward the earth with the speed of light and yet of almost unimaginably short wavelengths, shorter than the ultra violet waves, shorter even than the waves of the X-rays and the gamma rays of radium, beating ceaselessly beyond the ken of the known spectrum, probably completing its alphabet for the language by which the stars communicate with man. These immigrant rays come out of the "depths of outer space" into our highest atmosphere with an energy that, it is intimated, might be disastrous to the earth if it were to continue to increase, but do not at present come in such numbers as to be menacing. There is no possibility of the human production of these rays except at the expenditure of an impracticable energy. The author of "The Great Analysis" said a few years ago that there was nothing unknown this side of the moon, but here are these till now unknown and even now mysterious forces playing in the great spaces between our earth and the moon—forces of whose origin we know no more than we do of the origin of life on the earth itself. Even the mammal whose ten-million-year-old bones have been found in the same rocky nest with the unhatched dinosaur eggs does not remember the first day of Genesis.

The mere discovery of these rays is a triumph of