

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

CARRSVILLE, KENTUCKY

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?

HARLAN I. SMITH

VICTORIA MEMORIAL MUSEUM,
OTTAWA, CANADA

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