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THE GORILLA FILM "INGAGI"

A PROTEST against the film "Ingagi," widely shown throughout the country, was made by the American Society of Mammalogists at its recent meeting in New York City, according to an announcement made by Dr. William K. Gregory, of the American Museum of Natural History.

The formal resolution adopted read: "That in accordance with the facts brought out in the discussion of the film 'Ingagi,' which has been viewed by many of our members, the American Society of Mammalogists hereby expresses its utter disapproval of this film, which grossly misrepresents the natural history of Africa, while pretending to be a truthful record of a scientific expedition."

A statement issued on behalf of the society further stated: "The American public should understand that certain animals shown in the film have never been found in the wild state in Africa. Also that a man made up as a gorilla is represented as carrying off a native woman. In response to many protests and letters, certain members of the American Society of Mammalogists who have done field work in Africa have viewed the film and are unanimous in deploring its numerous fictitious features which are misleadingly mingled with genuine natural history records."

The American Society of Mammalogists is the leading organization of specialists on mammals, of which great group of animals man and the higher apes are the most advanced members. The resolution on "Ingagi" was sponsored by Dr. Gregory, Harold J. Coolidge, Jr., assistant curator of mammals of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University; H. E. Anthony, curator of mammals of the American Museum of Natural History, and James L. Clark, in charge of taxidermy and animal restoration at the American Museum of Natural History.

The British Embassy stated in response to an inquiry that there is no Englishman by the name of Sir Hubert Winstead, who is credited in the film "Ingagi" with leading the African expedition claimed to be described in the film. Information from official British sources was requested after scientists had condemned the motion picture on the grounds of inaccuracy and misrepresentation of scientific facts.

METEOR DISPLAY PREDICTED FOR EARLY IN JUNE

COMET 1930d, as the astronomers call the new visitor to the heavens discovered by Drs. Schwassmann and Wachmann, is expected to cause a meteoric display about June 9 radiating from the region of the sky slightly west of the constellation of Hercules and above the Northern Crown. This is the prediction of the Japanese astronomer, Professor Issei Yamamoto, of Kyoto, Japan, and American astronomers are urging all interested to keep a lookout for an unusual number of meteors.

Astronomers explain that there is no certainty that meteors will be seen as the earth passes near the comet's orbit, but a chance of seeing a good display is not one that should be missed. Careful watch should be continued until about June 11, with especial diligence of observation on the nights of June 8, 9 and 10.

At any time on a clear night shooting stars may be seen here and there in the sky at intervals of several minutes, but at special times of the year when the earth cuts through the path of meteoric swarms they are particularly numerous and appear to come from one general location in the sky. There are a number of annual meteor swarms met by the earth, most famous of which are the Leonids on November 14 and the Perseids on August 12, so named because the meteors appear to come from the constellations after which the swarms are named. The display expected from comet 1930d is an extra heavenly meteoric exhibition and that is why astronomers are particularly interested in it. The radiant, or the point in the sky from which the June meteors appear to diverge or radiate, will be nearly overhead high in the eastern sky early in the evening.

Both Professor Charles P. Olivier, of the Flower Observatory, University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory, urge amateurs to record the numbers of meteors seen each hour during the time of their observations. Those who are experienced with the use of star charts should record the path of each bright meteor among the stars. The duration of flight should be timed or estimated. In the event that bright meteors appear in large numbers an effort should be made to photograph the meteor tracks.

Reports of observations should be sent to Professor Olivier, the University of Pennsylvania, who will utilize them in connection with other reports received from members of the American Meteor Society which has as its special objective the observation of meteors.

METAL WALLS ON SKYSCRAPER

THE coming of the steel and glass skyscraper of the future, its height limited by economic considerations rather than by structural difficulties, is being hastened by the use of sheet metal largely to replace brick and stone in the new Empire State Building now being erected in New York City.

A silvery chrome-nickel-steel alloy in angular sections one twentieth of an inch thick will form a large part of the walls of the building. The metal was first developed for gun linings and is unrusting, non-tarnishing and unaffected by weather.

Such thin walls are likely to be used for buildings of the future. Some architects feel stone and brick walls for skyscrapers are not in keeping with steel structurally and are merely a heritage. The metal is said to save floor space, cost less and weigh less, give more light and result in better health for the occupants. Glass would be used to such an extent that partitions and great portions of outside walls would be made of it.

This tallest skyscraper in the world being erected on the site of the old Waldorf-Astoria hotel at 34th Street and Fifth Avenue will be the nearest approach to the structural limit of 2,000 feet as determined by computations of the American Institute of Steel Construction. Its 85 floors will rise 1,043 feet high, and the building itself will be surmounted by a 200-foot observation platform or mooring mast for airships.

Eiffel Tower rises 1,000 feet, the City Bank and Farmers Trust Co. will be 925 feet and the Bank of Manhattan 838 feet tall. The Chrysler Building soars 808 feet and the Woolworth Building 792 feet.

The enormous weight of elevator cables, the inability of the human ear to withstand rapid pressure changes in an elevator going faster than 1,500 feet per minute, and the large floor area needed for elevator shafts make it impracticable to exceed the approximate 2,000-foot structural height limit.

The economic height depends upon the cost of land, the Steel Institute says. Its studies show that where land value is $200 per square foot a 63-story building brings greatest returns. Where the value is $400 per square foot a 75-story building was found to be most economical.

FOOD FOR DOGS

"If you want your dog to reach a ripe old age, say twenty years, do not feed him the choice cuts of meat; feed him the internal organs, the parts generally thrown away," says Dr. William Lentz, director of the small animal hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Checking up on research on longevity in dogs, Dr. Lentz has found that among a number of dogs which reached the age of twenty years or more, the great majority had access to the waste material cast out by butchers and abattoirs, this waste consisting of the softer internal organs, and not the firm muscular portions of the meat.

The dog, being carnivorous when left to himself, follows the instincts of his wild brothers, since observation has shown that beasts of prey do not devour the muscular portions of the animals which they bring down, but rather rip the carcass open and eat the inner organs. Dr. Lentz points out that man has sought to adapt the dog's diet to his own, much to the detriment of the dog. It appears that carnivorous animals derive certain benefits from the softer diet, and from certain qualities contained in the glandular organs.

Dr. Herbert Fox, director of the Pathological Laboratory of the Philadelphia Zoological Society, and author of an outstanding work on diseases of wild animals in captivity, has found that the diet of muscular meat, ordinarily fed to lions and other carnivora in captivity, is not nearly so beneficial to them as a diet of softer meat, more nearly approximating the lion's choice in his wild state. Study is being given this subject by Dr. Fox, who is also director of the Pepper Pathological Institute of the University of Pennsylvania.

ITEMS

THE plant patents bill, which makes it possible for plant breeders to protect their new hybrids as though they were mechanical or chemical inventions, has been passed by both houses of Congress and signed by President Hoover, making it law. The terms of the act extend protection only to plants that are propagated by cuttings, grafts and similar asexual methods; not to new varieties of plants propagated by seeds. A further exception excludes plants that are propagated asexually by tubers, of which class potatoes are the most notable example.

THE color of the new planet Pluto, as Planet X has been christened by its discoverers at Lowell Observatory, is totally unlike that of the other outer planets, but resembles the inner ones, Roger Lowell Putnam, trustee of the Lowell Observatory and nephew of the late Professor Percival Lowell, founder of the observatory, has announced to *Science Service*. Mars at the immense distance of Pluto would be no brighter than the new planet. If it is assumed that Pluto reflects the same proportion of the sun's light as the Moon or the innermost planet Mercury, then computations show that Pluto would be larger than the planet Mars which itself is not much smaller than the earth. Only premature publication of an unauthorized story caused the Lowell Observatory authorities to announce their naming of the new planet before communicating with the American Astronomical Society or the Royal Astronomical Society. "It is too soon to draw definite conclusions on the new planet," Mr. Putnam said, "but the fact remains it was discovered substantially in the place predicted by Professor Lowell and its discovery was wholly due to the work started by him."

THE curiosity metal, indium, only about a pound of which has been isolated from its ores, is produced 99.9 per cent. pure by electrolysis. Although it is very rare and what little there is of it brings for experimental purposes about six times as much as platinum, it is hoped that a use will be found for its peculiar properties. It melts at a much lower temperature than tin and is very soft and ductile. Electrolysis separates it from the residue of such ores as iron, aluminum, titanium and silicon, where it is found in small quantities, L. R. Westbrook, of Cleveland, told the American Electrochemical Society at its recent meeting.

THE possibility of mosquitoes giving a disease to other mosquitoes, as they give it to man, has been demonstrated by Major Joe H. St. John and Major James Stevens Simmons, both of the U. S. Army Medical Corps, and Captain Francois H. K. Reynolds, of the Veterinary Corps, working at the Army medical department research board, Philippine Bureau of Science at Manila. Mosquitoes were allowed to feed through guinea-pig skin on the macerated bodies of other mosquitoes which had been infected with the virus of dengue fever. To prove that the second group of mosquitoes had actually picked up the virus, two American soldiers allowed themselves to be bitten by them. They both had typical attacks of the disease.