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**Are The Planets Inhabited?**

(T. P.'s Weekly, London.)

How many times has it been asked, and in what diverse fashions has it been answered, that question as to other worlds than ours! In our own days, M Flammarion, has mingled a great deal of imagination with his astronomical knowledge, Mr Wells has mingled a very little science with his imagination, and each has dealt with the problem after his fashion. Now it is the turn of a scientist who has tried to restrain his imagination and keep it within legitimate bounds, M Edmond Perrier, of the 'Academie des Sciences.' M. Perrier has had the curiosity to work out the problem of planetary zoology on scientific lines, utilizing all the material that modern science has placed at his disposal. Allowing a generous margin for the uncertainty of many details, he considers that he has established the validity of the same biological laws throughout the solar system,

and that by taking the forms of life obtaining on our globe as a starting point he can calculate, at least approximately, those which exist on this or the other of the planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are probably sterile. These giants are but of feeble density, and have not yet cooled to the point of habitability by any organic life we can conceive. Their waters are too salt, their atmosphere too poor in oxygen. They may be ruled out of court as possible abodes, whether of bliss or otherwise. This leaves us with four planets: Mars, the Earth, Venus and Mercury. The last, nearest of all to the sun, is but one-third the size of the Earth, with an average temperature of 93 degrees Centigrade. No life is conceivable there, unless it be that of disembodied spirits, not those of the best. We need not linger over the Earth. We know too much about it to be interested. Venus, with an average temperature of sixty-six degrees Centigrade, has a moist and cloudy atmosphere. Organized life is more than probable; a life that is violent, vigorous abundant, but less advanced than our own. Butterflies measuring a yard across the wings and beetles of proportionate size hover about the crests of giant ferns and exaggerated grasses. Mighty frogs croak in the steaming marshes and are devoured by enormous saurians. Fish there may be, but fish of the primeval slime, monstrous caricatures of tropical splendor. Neither bird nor mammal has yet appeared. Mars is the elder brother of our Earth, the only possible world whose life can approach our own. Its light is soft, its temperature moderate on the average, but with tremendous ups and downs. It is a planet of flowers and butterflies by day and fires and furs by night. There are almost certainly men in Mars, says M Perrier, and more advanced than we are. They are tall and well-formed because weight is more easily carried; fair because the sun's rays are less burning than with us; Scandinavians of a slender type.

**A LIFE-SAVER.**

"Chuggins is fearfully selfish since he got that new motor car," said the critical friend. "In what way?" "Every time he hooks to warn a pedestrian he thinks he ought to have a life saving medal."—Washington 'Star.'

Little Mary went into the country on a visit to her grandmother. Walking in the garden she chanced to spy a peacock, a bird she had never seen. She ran quickly into the house, and cried out. "O grandma, come out and see. There's an old chicken in full bloom."

**SOME PRIZE HOWLERS.**

(From the University Correspondent)

The feminine of fox is foxhen.  
John Burns was the name of one of the claimants to the throne of Scotland in the reign of Edward I.  
Panama is a town of Colombo, where they are trying to make an isthmus.

The three highest mountains in Scotland are Ben Nevis, Ben Lomond and Ben Jonson.

Tennyson wrote a poem called Graves Energy.

The Rump Parliament consisted entirely of Cromwells stalactites.

The plural of spouse is spice.

Queen Elizabeth rode a white horse from Kennilworth through Coventry with nothing on, and Raleigh offered her his cloak.

King John was surnamed Black Land because he died of the Black Death.

Those melodious bursts that fill the spacious days of great Elizabeth refers to the songs that Queen Elizabeth used to write in her spare time.

Wolsey saved his life by dying on the way from York to London.

An interjection is a sudden explosion of the mind.

Monsoons are fertile gorges between the Himalayas.

When the English first landed in Australia the only four-footed animal in the country was a rat.

**THE FAR EAST**

In a recent article the well known war correspondent, Mr William Maxwell, throws considerable light on the differences that have arisen between Russia and China regarding the treaty of 1881, and points out that although open conflict has been temporarily averted, there is every indication of a renewal of the trouble in August next when the disputed treaty expires.

China can no longer fill the role of playing off one power against another. The anxiety recently displayed to come to terms with her powerful and covetous neighbor was entirely dictated by the reflection that for the first time in her relations with the outer barbarians China stood alone. Russia has concluded an agreement with Germany that gives the Muscovite a practically free hand in China, and the latter must now face her troubles alone without hope of intervention from Berlin. This is why China so recently sued for peace when the glint of Russian bayonets appeared on the frontier. Can China withstand the pressure that may be applied in August next to compel her to renew a treaty that is repugnant to her national instinct? Will the rattle of Russian sabres be heard on the streets of the Forbidden City?

The circumstances that led up to threats of Russian invasion are significant. The treaty of 1881 expires in August. Russia insists on the renewal of the treaty. China has given notice that she does not desire to renew it. The treaty had its origin in the Mohammedan revolt of 1870 which at that period threatened to disrupt the Chinese Empire. Following this outbreak Russia took up a strong strategic position on her western boundary by the military occupation of the fertile Province of Kuldja, the racial ties between the two Turkestans calling at the time for precautionary measures. But true to the traditions of the great powers, Russia remained in occupation for ten years after the cause that justified her presence on Chinese territory had disappeared. A treaty was finally arranged whereby Russia, in exchange for commercial and Consular concessions in Ill, Mongolia, and Manchuria, together with navigation rights on the Rivers Amur, Sun gari, and Ussuri, withdrew her troops. These concessions, wrung from a weak and unwilling nation, and which secured Russia against the yellow peril in eastern Siberia have never been acquiesced in by the Chinese people, who grow more and more restive under foreign aggressions. To neutralize the effects of a treaty to which she was an unwilling partner China moved whole towns from the interior of Turkestan and Mongolia to the boundaries, and forced the tribesmen from their

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inland pastures right up to the Russian frontier. Concessions of land and cattle were freely made to encourage Chinese colonization in those regions exploited by Russian merchants and which the latter declared have rendered the treaty of 1881 null and void.

It is to restore the balance of power in Kuldja, and to secure the Russian subjects the extra territorial rights of which they have been deprived, that Russia insists on the renewal of the treaty not only in the letter but in the spirit. China, on the other hand, charges Russia with an warrantable abuses of her treaty rights and points to aggressions that afford strong presumptive evidence of sinister designs against the integrity of the Chinese Empire.—Toronto Globe.

**MEXICO**

Canada Great Britain Germany and the United States are the countries whose investments in Mexico are largest. Americans, however, have by far the largest interest in the contiguous republic. Three years ago it was estimated Americans had \$954,400,000 at stake in Mexico, and the sum has been largely increased in the intervening period. A very large portion of this enormous amount is invested in undertakings peculiarly liable to damage and loss in case of war, such as railroads and mines. Even

during the rebellion now going on in one state only much damage has been done to railroads. The mining industry has absorbed much American money, while in banks and general business there have been also large investments. In the City of Mexico alone there are eight thousand Americans, most of whom are engaged in business. With so many Americans in the republic and with much American capital at stake in the various industries, it is evident that the country has a powerful interest in the maintenance of order in Mexico. President Taft in his order for the manoeuvres of troops on the border, has in mind, no doubt, the possibility that he will be compelled to look after those interests in an effective way. So far as has been disclosed the insurrection in Mexico is not a serious affair but the internal conditions of the country may not be well known to the outside world.—St John Globe.

A professor of dentistry, lecturing at Columbia University, said that Americans had poor teeth because they did not do sufficient chewing. This may explain the sailor's complaint against tender beef on the ground that there was "no chew to it."—Toronto Globe.