

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1901.

## A Long Trip in a Balloon.

The recent balloon voyage of First Lieut. von Hildebrandt, of the Royal Prussian Balloon Section and Dr. Berson, as described by the former in the German periodical, Die Rundschau, is of much interest to balloonists.

Dr. Berson, already holds the record for attaining the greatest height, 29,280 feet in his balloon ascension at Stassfurt. The interest excited by this and similar trips to the higher atmosphere led to the formation of an International Aeronautic commission, the purpose of which was to have a number of simultaneous ascensions made at various geographical points in Europe, thus the better to study the physical properties of the atmosphere. At the meeting in September last, at Paris, it was agreed to take balloon ascensions on the first Thursday of every month. On Jan. 10, last, a great number of such ascensions took place, the most interesting of which was that of Dr. Berson and Lieut. von Hildebrandt.

The ascension was made at Berlin. Originally it was intended to make as high an ascension as possible, but a cloudless sky, indicating the possibility of remaining a long time at low level without loss of ballast, tempted the two observers to try to cross the Baltic sea.

There were several other favorable circumstances. In the first place, the balloon reached the coast without any loss of ballast; in the next place the wind was blowing straight toward the north, at low levels even northwest, the most favorable direction for making the shortest trip across the water, and finally the balloon arrived at the coast so early that the observers could hope to cross the 55 mile stretch to Denmark by daylight. The last condition did not quite hold, since the twilight was well advanced before their arrival at Frelleborg, Sweden; but then the observers were both tried and experienced craftsmen.

The meteorological instruments carried were an Assmann psychrometre (wet-and-dry-bulb hygrometer) composed of two mercury thermometers, one dry, the other moist, to determine the moisture in the air; an alcohol thermometer for great elevations (last year a temperature of 41 degrees C. was found in the upper air on a similar occasion); two aneroid barometers, a barograph, and a black bulb thermometer to measure the intensity of the sun's rays. A flask containing 500 litres of oxygen at atmospheric pressure for breathing at high altitudes completed the outfit.

The voyage began at 8 17 a. m., with a surface temperature of 21 degrees F. Berlin was crossed at an elevation of about 600 feet, and by varying the elevation it was discovered that up to 2,400 feet elevation the wind blew right in a westerly direction, between 2,450 and 4,500 feet in a straight northerly direction, and at higher elevations more to the eastward.

At 2,900 feet the temperature was 15 degrees C. higher than at the earth's surface (generally the temperature is lower about one degree C. for every 300 feet of ascent): no degrees C. (32 degrees F.) was reached at 7,800 feet, and the surface temperature (20 degrees F.) at 9,800 feet. The lowest temperature could not be measured as it was dark when the greatest elevation was reached and the balloon was not furnished with electric lights.

It was not till they reached the vicinity of Neu Strelitz, after two hours' travel, that the observer gave up the idea of a high ascension, and decided to cross the water to Denmark or Sweden. They had been going about 27 miles an hour, and could therefore hope to reach land in Denmark at any rate.

The coast was reached at 1.15 p. m. near Stralsund, and 2 p. m. the island of Rugen was crossed. At 3.30 p. m. the balloon stood over the middle point of the stretch of water, and at 4 p. m. the sun set. The cooling of the air, with resulting cooling and contraction of the balloon gases, forced the adventurers to throw ballast overboard.

The compass was used to determine direction of travel while passing over the land, but on the water this became impossible as the observers could not tell which way the balloon was moving. By pouring

out sand they could tell approximately their direction of motion, and they soon found the balloon was moving too much to the eastward.

The balloon was lowered to the region of winds moving more to the westward, and when land came in sight the compass verified their course. The Swedish coast was reached at five p. m., and the balloon made straight for Trelleburg at an elevation of about 1,900 feet. Although dark by this time, the snow on the ground facilitated sight and orientation.

In crossing the water there was at first great danger of going too far eastward, which would have necessitated crossing the entire length of the Baltic before reaching land. Now the tendency was westward, which would have taken the observers into the North Sea.

Consequently ballast was thrown out to reach a higher level and a wind blowing more to the northward, and this was soon accomplished, the balloon moving northward over Malmö. At this point darkness set in.

At first the observers supposed there was much snow on the ground below them, but they soon learned that it was the effect of a dense layer of clouds, consequently they decided to land as soon as possible. A study of the weather map at that time also shows that had they continued their voyage they would have been carried to the Kattegat, then to the Skagerak, and there taken by the then prevailing east wind and blown into the North Sea.

As it was the observers after great danger in crossing two lakes and a large wood the tow line dragging and the basket touching the tops of the trees landed in the deep snow, about 14 miles north of the railroad station at Markayrd, in the province of Småland.

The highest point reached 10,240 feet was just before the landing.

### THE OVER-TRAINED NURSE.

How Such a Perfect Creature Spoils a Man's Pleasure in Sickness.

In an address to a medical society in Chicago a London physician has noted the disposition of the American doctors to avail themselves of the improvements which relieve the profession of much of its former drudgery and cares. Here long prescriptions are seldom written, since it is practicable to prescribe palatable tablets which offer the best of combinations. By this system the danger of mistakes on the part of the physician and blunders by apothecaries is greatly reduced. Dangerous drugs may be given in the form of 'diurnules,' or diurnal tablets, and the doctor need not rack his uncertain memory as to the maximum dose. The full dose of the drug is embraced in twelve tablets, one of which may be given every hour, two every two hours and so on; and it is only necessary not to exceed twelve in one day. The visitor further noted that while the trained nurse is appreciated in England, she is not so generally employed as in this country, where she has relieved the physicians of much care and annoyance.

It would be idle to challenge the statement that the trained nurse is popular in this country. In most if not all American cities the demand for nurses exceeds the supply, and in cases of severe illness or where there is no orderliness of self-restraint in a household the trained nurse is a necessity and a blessing. It is undeniable, however, that where the patient is a man, and not critically ill, the typically trained young woman is often a source of irritation.

Few men can endure the restraint which her presence imposes. She shows every mark of having been cast in a mold, and of being entirely artificial. Her fixed and restrained smile indicates only a stimulated amiability. The precision with which her hair is brushed back under her impossibly neat cap; her noiseless and ghostlike glide; her businesslike and untiring administration of drops and powders with inhuman regularity and without the possibility of a mistake; her practiced look of celestial goodness and superhuman wisdom—all these are too unlike what is looked for from the spontaneous and sympathetic woman of the

ministering angel kind. To the average man who is not too sick to be impressed by his surroundings, this figure of mechanical perfection is more disturbing than would be a tipsy coal heaver in the sick chamber.

So perfect a creature spoils all a man's pleasure in sickness. He can make no appeal to her sympathy—cannot plead for delay when the nauseous dose is due, or conduct himself like a spoiled child, which is one of the compensations of illness to a man. Perhaps he may be disappointed, too. When a trained nurse is suggested to the inexperienced male he may have visions of a young woman with human qualities whose feelings will be touched by suffering, whose gentle hand will smooth the pillow and cool the fevered brow, and that sort of sentimental thing. Only observant and experienced wives know how sentimental the most practical of men—even a bank president—may be after business hours. When the male patient finds himself in the hands of a self-contained and unimpressible young woman, as exact and methodical and unsympathetic as a machine and as dead to his personality as a wooden Indian, he is disposed to be irritable. However efficient she may be, there are circumstances in which the trained nurse may be as oppressive as was the red nosed, fat old woman nurse who preceded her.

### Conversation in the Jungle.

Paul Du Chaillu has lived long enough in the jungles to have the most wholesome respect for the intelligence of animals, and when asked if he believed that animals talk to one another, he replied in the affirmative.

'Does a monkey, for instance,' inquired one of his hearers, 'have a certain word or expression for 'water'?' 'Perhaps not for water,' said Mr Du Chaillu, 'for monkeys in their natural state very seldom drink water. They eat berries and fruits which contain water; but there is no doubt that animals talk in certain ways among themselves.'

This statement he prepared to demonstrate. 'I have heard one gorilla call another which was seven or eight miles away, when the first had found some berries in profusion, and I have seen monkeys deliberate among themselves a long time before making an important move. 'That reminds me that animals have to work hard to get a living, even in forests where there is an abundance of vegetation. Some animals travel miles every day to get food and then have all sorts of trouble in picking out a safe spot in which to rest for the night. That is where the elephants have hard work—in selecting a spot to rest. They seem to have the same hatred for snakes which human beings and most animals have. They will carefully trample over a large section to drive away or kill any snakes or small animals that may be around.'

### The Useful Telephone.

Two Baltimore young ladies went to an evening entertainment and as luck would have it, forgot to take a latch key. On their return they rang the bell repeatedly and beat on the door but could rouse no one.

Almost in despair, they stood on the porch, says the Baltimore Sun, wondering what they could do, when a neighbor who had been awakened by the din, appeared at his window opposite, and asked what was the matter.

'We are locked out and cannot seem to waken papa,' came the reply from the ladies.

'Wait a minute,' said the quick-witted man on the other side of the street. 'Your father has a telephone in his room, and I will call him up.' So the Central was called.

'Give me Number—,' said the neighbor. As soon as the bell sounded in the room of the sleeping father, he woke with a start and ran to the telephone.

'Hello, what is wanted?' 'Is that you, Mr. —?'

'Yes, what is it?'

'Your daughters are at the front door trying to get in. Go down and let them in. Good night.'

The young ladies were soon indoors, rejoicing in the usefulness of the telephone.

The number of ladies who buy Magnetic Dyes all over Canada surprises even ourselves,—of course they give splendid results.

'Miss Garlinghorn is a blonde, is she not?' asked Rivers.

'Nee brunette,' answered Brooks, with a somewhat Gallic play of the intellect, as it were.

## Hidden Wealth of Canada.

Some idea of the vast extent of the unexplored areas of Canada is given by the latest report of the Director of the Canadian Geological Survey, which has just been published. It is a remarkable fact that practically nothing whatever is known of one third of the whole Dominion of Canada. This vast area, it is believed, contains illimitable resources and will in time open an immense field for American capital and enterprise. It is significant that the great industrial enterprises of Canada are passing into the hands of Americans and it is becoming clearer every day that Canada must depend for the development of its great natural resources largely on American capital. An American, Mr. Whitney of Boston, at the head of the great Dominion Iron and Steel works at Sydney, C. B., and another American, Cornelius Shields, has just been brought from Virginia to manage them.

Mr. Clergue, another American, backed by immense capital from the United States, is developing in New Ontario. Everywhere in fact, American capital is pouring in to develop Canada resources, which for long years have lain dormant while the great era of expansion and progress has been under way in the United States. In fifty years, backed by American capital and progressiveness, the Dominion should have a population of between 40,000,000 and 50,000,000 and be one of the richest countries per capita in the world. That its industrial development by Americans will tend to draw the two countries into closer bonds is apparent.

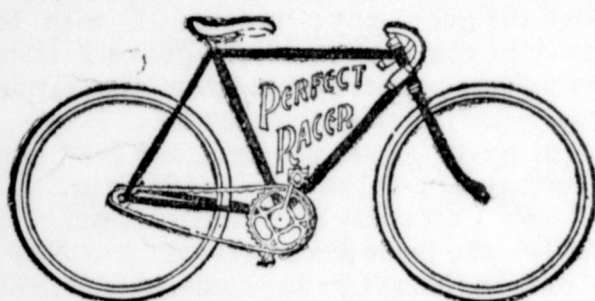
The entire area of the Dominion is computed at 3,450,275 square miles, and it is estimated that of this vast area, excluding the inhospitable detached Arctic portions, 954,000 square miles is for all practical

purposes entirely unknown. Beginning at the extreme northwest of the Dominion the first of these areas is between the eastern boundary of Alaska, the Porcupine River and the Arctic coast, about 9,500 square miles in extent, or somewhat smaller than Belgium, and lying entirely within the Arctic circle. The next is west of the Lowes and Yukon rivers and extends to the boundary of Alaska. Until last year 32,000 square miles of this area was unexplored, but a portion has since been traveled over. A third area of 27,000 square miles, nearly twice as large as Scotland, lies between the Lowes, Pelly and MacKenzie rivers. Between the Pelly and MacKenzie rivers is another tract of 100,000 square miles, or about double the size of England. This includes nearly six hundred miles of the Rocky mountain range.

An unexplored area of 50,000 square miles is found between Great Bear Lake and the Arctic coast, being nearly all to the north of the Arctic circle. Nearly as large as Portugal is another tract between Great Bear Lake, the Mackenzie River and the western part of the Great Slave Lake, in all 35,000 square miles. Lying between Stikine and Laird rivers to the north and Skeena and Peace rivers to the south is an area of 81,000 square miles which is practically unexplored. Of the 35,000 square miles southeast of Athabasca Lake, little is known except that it has been crossed by a field party on its way to Fort Churchill. East of the Coppermine River and west of the Bathurst Inlet are 7,500 square miles of unexplored land, or about half the size of Switzerland. Eastward to this, lying between the Arctic coast and Black's River, is an area of 31,—

[CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN.]

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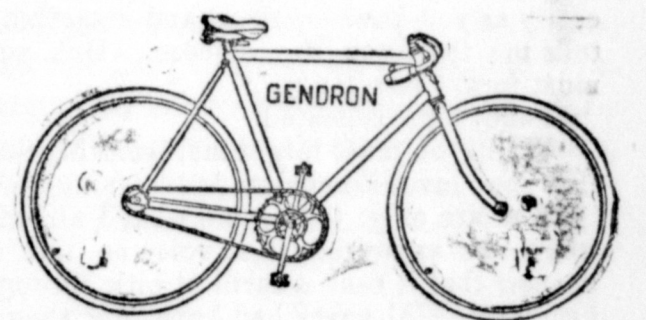
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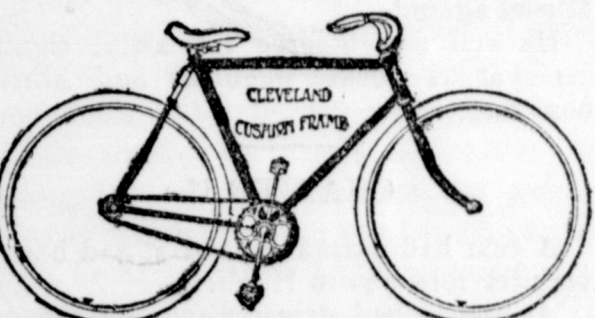
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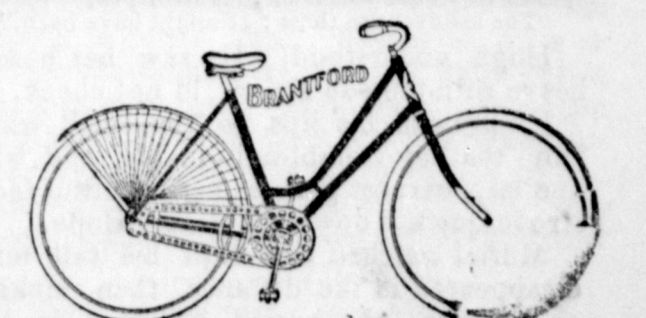
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