

In these discussions I am always prepared, and perhaps prefer, to stand unaided, and I do not wish, or feel it to be necessary, to call others to my support in this instance. But in the interests of scientific truth it is needful again to direct attention to the fact that every well-known and competent archæologist to whom the Sligo specimens have been shown has, without exception, or any hesitation, accepted them as the work of man. I cannot doubt but that if Prof. Macalister and his colleagues examined these specimens they would also agree with this conclusion. It is because I am convinced that the Sligo material is of human origin I am compelled to conclude that the geological views of Prof. Macalister and his colleagues regarding the Rosses Point site are incorrect. The specimens, too, found by Mr. Burchell embedded deep in Boulder Clay at Ballyconnell, though, I admit, not so conclusively of human agency as those from the other sites, are, I believe, nevertheless artificial, and exhibit the same technique as those discovered at Rosses Point and elsewhere.

J. REID MOIR.

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Sun Images through Window Glass.

SUNLIGHT comes in through an east window and falls upon the whitened wall of a room; a blind is drawn so as to stop the sunlight except for two vertical strips about two inches wide. The two strips of light seen on the wall are not of even illumination,

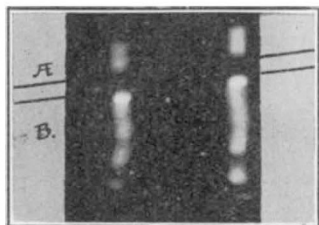


FIG. 1.

but consist of a series of distorted images of the sun overlapping each other throughout the whole length of the strips. A 'control' to the observation is made by pulling the window down at the top; the overlapping images are not seen now; this is shown in part A of the photograph, which is separated by the horizontal framework of the window from the part B, in which are the 'through the window' images.

The glass is evidently responsible for the effect, though to the naked eye or touch, there is nothing unusual about it.

Perhaps some readers of NATURE would suggest an explanation of the observation.

S. RUSS.

Little Hawkwell, Pembury,
Kent, Nov. 25.

Red Sensitive Photoelectric Cells.

We have found that it is possible to make photoelectric cells of the Elster-Geitel type sensitive to the extreme red, and having a colour sensitivity approaching that of the eye much more nearly than those used at present. The new cells have a limit above $700\mu\mu$ and a very useful sensitivity at $650\mu\mu$; their sensitivity extends also to the violet limit of the visible spectrum, and their total sensitivity to white light is of the same order as that of existing cells.

These cells are not yet marketed in the ordinary way, but we could make a limited number of them available to those who have serious use for them. Inquiries should be addressed here.

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Though our process for making these cells works consistently, we do not profess yet to understand it completely. If we described it, we might insist on unessential rather than essential details; and accordingly prefer to postpone a description until our investigations have progressed further.

C. C. PATERSON.
(Director.)

Research Laboratories of the General Electric
Company, Ltd., Wembley.
Dec. 5.

The 'Green Flash.'

IF in my letter in NATURE of Dec. 3, I am understood to have suggested that the green flash seen at sunset had no cause other than a physiological one, I withdraw any implied or hinted suggestion in that direction; for it is evident that a great weight of authority is in favour of a physical cause. My letter, indeed, admitted the likelihood of greenish atmospheric effects; but I wished to contribute a simple fact of observation, which suggested to me—and still suggests—that a suddenly disappearing light may stimulate a momentary green sensation in some persons, even when atmospheric and other conditions for actual colour are absent.

It was, I admit, rather hasty to send a letter on so small a point; but readers of NATURE may be glad of the consequent reiterated assurances of high meteorological authorities in the issue of Dec. 17 that the solar occurrence of the phenomenon is objective.

OLIVER LODGE.

Normanton House,
Lake, Salisbury,
Jan. 3.

The Two Calories.

MUCH confusion is caused by the use of the word calorie in two different senses—one to signify the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one gram of water 1°C ., and the other to represent what is really a kilocalorie, or the amount of heat required to raise 1000 grams of water 1°C . The only difference between the means of distinguishing the two units is that the large Calorie is spelt with a capital initial letter, and unless great care is taken this may be set up as a 'lower case' letter by the compositor. May I suggest that the confusion could be avoided—at least so far as the printed word is concerned—by spelling the large unit with a capital letter K, thus, 'Kalorie.' The use of the letter 'k' in this way is in conformity with the principle adopted in the designation of metric units generally.

PERCY L. MARKS.

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Marsh Gas from Plants.

IN Black's "Lectures on the Elements of Chemistry," published in 1803, there occurs the footnote in reference to marsh gas (spoken of by Black as 'inflammable air'): "The *Dictamnus Fraxinella* emits it from its flowers in such abundance in a calm evening, that it may be set on fire by a candle, nay, take fire of itself."

I shall be very glad if any readers of NATURE can give me information which will enable me to trace this statement to its source, or any information whatever on the point.

ALEX. FINDLAY.

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Aberdeen.