

TAKING TIME FROM THE STARS.

New "Cambridge Time" is Accused in the Observatory at Harvard.
No timepiece is so perfect, and there are no means of so high of keeping perfect time as the stars.

The stars, however, furnish the necessary means. At the observatory in Cambridge there are ten principal clocks employed in keeping the standard time of the standard, mean clock, which telegraphically connects with the standard clock, and the normal standard clock, which is the main standard of the observatory, to which everything is referred. This standard clock, at its base, has large wheels of steel, which revolve about once every thirty minutes and fifty-eight seconds per day over mean solar time, with which we are all familiar.

The clock is of the most workmanship and is kept in a brick vault, under the observatory, where the temperature is as nearly constant as possible.

On every clear evening the error of this clock is carefully determined by observing certain bright stars with an instrument known as the meridian circle.

This instrument consists of a telescope mounted on a meridian line, and supported by a pier of solid masonry, which is so arranged that it can be directed toward any point on the meridian line, but cannot be pointed away from the meridian line.

On looking into the eyepiece of this telescope one sees a series of thin parallel lines running north and south across the field of view, the middle line marking the meridian.

When a star observation is to be made, the observer first adjusts a suitable lens to a point on the field, which gives the exact time at which each of the principal stars crosses the meridian. He then sets the telescope at the proper point on the meridian to observe the star, and putting his eye to the eyepiece, waits for the star to appear.

As the star crosses one of the lines before mentioned he notes an electric key which he holds in his hand. This sends a signal to an electrically connected chronograph, which automatically records the seconds of the standard clock. The chronograph consists of a cylinder made to revolve by clock work at the rate of about one revolution per day.

A paper, wrapped around this cylinder, receives the record traced by a pen, which is connected by an electric wire with a small motor which, when started by the operator or the clock, causes the pen to make a mark on the paper.

By extending this paper the observer is able to tell within a tenth of a second the time which the record clock indicated when the star crossed the meridian.

Comparing this with the time taken from the star clock shows the error of the clock. A comparison is then made between the standard and mean time clocks, which, after allowing for the difference between mean and sidereal time, shows the error of the mean time clock.

If the clock is slow a slight weight is placed on the top of the pendulum bob, which causes the clock to gain slightly. If, on the other hand, the clock is fast, a small weight is removed, making the clock slow slightly. In this way the standard clock is kept within a few tenths of a second of the correct time.—Yonkers Comptroller.

He Made a Big Mistake.
A few days ago a man asked his last to help him in a personal matter. The lady stated at first for his importance and turned her head. His face flushed, and after hesitating a moment he went up to her and said: "You really must excuse me, madam, but I must look you for a lady when I met her once a short time ago. I saw my mistake at once, but still there is a very great resemblance. Her name is Mrs. —."

The resemblance is so remarkable you have heard of her."
The lady, with an amused smile, finally said:
"Yes, the resemblance is remarkable. I myself am Mrs. —."

The man started. By the time he had discovered what the "mistake" was that he saw the lady was gone.—Chicago Herald.

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A young man from the country had been visiting the city, and was returning home on his adventures to visiting friends.

Among other things he gave an account of how he attended mass at the cathedral. As he described the experience, he noticed that one young lady seemed greatly interested, and when he finished his story she said to him: "Oh, Mr. Smith, did you really see them from inside, as people say they do?"—Youth's Companion.

MAGIC LANTERN WONDER.

Some Curious Things Revealed by an Old Discovery in France.

"The magic lantern was invented long before the development of photography gave it its present value, and as an expert in this matter writes: 'The discovery is credited to Alphonse Niepce, who died in 1828, and whose name has been made famous by his nephew, the famous artist, who was his partner in the invention of the camera lucida, which is the main standard of the observatory, to which everything is referred. This standard clock, at its base, has large wheels of steel, which revolve about once every thirty minutes and fifty-eight seconds per day over mean solar time, with which we are all familiar.'"

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MEN WHO CHARGE THEIR NAMES.

Generally Men Who Have Gotten Cuckoo, or at Least the Hint.

"Do you know that James K. Smith, the famous Mormon leader, was once charged with cuckooing, and something about it in changing his name?" remarked one of Uncle Sam's secret agents.

"No," he said, "I do not know that he was charged with cuckooing, but I do know that he was charged with cuckooing, and something about it in changing his name."

"It may surprise you to know that there is quite a degree of regularity as to the names of the cuckooing, and something about it in changing his name."

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Liebig COMPANY'S EXTRACT OF BEEF.

Barboursville, W. Va., March 15, 1901.
To the Honorable Board of Health of the City of Barboursville, West Virginia:

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the Liebig Company's Extract of Beef is a pure and healthful food, and is suitable for use in the preparation of food for the sick and convalescent.

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