

SCIENCE

VOL. 73

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1931

No. 1887

<i>Science and the Supernatural</i> : DR. A. J. CARLSON	217	<i>Special Articles</i> :	
<i>Cope—Master Naturalist</i> : DR. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN	225	<i>A Direct Quantitative Relationship between Vitamin A in Corn and the Number of Genes for Yellow Pigmentation</i> : DR. P. C. MANGELSDORF and DR. G. S. FRAPS. <i>A Differentiation of the So-called Antipellagic Factor, Vitamin G</i> : PROFESSOR BARNETT SURE, MARGARET ELIZABETH SMITH, M. C. KIK. <i>Liver Extract as a Source of Vitamins B and G</i> : PROFESSOR W. D. SALMON and DR. N. B. GUERRANT	241
<i>Scientific Events</i> :		<i>Science News</i>	10
<i>The Baltic Geodetic Commission; The International Biological Congress at Montevideo; Lectures of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences; The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology; The Pasadena Meeting of the American Association and Associated Societies</i>	227		
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	229		
<i>Discussion</i> :			
<i>Meteor Crater is not a Limestone Sink</i> : PROFESSOR CHESTER R. LONGWELL. <i>Branchinecta at Leadville, Colorado</i> : PROFESSOR CHAS. H. BEHRE, JR. <i>Hearing without Cochlea</i> : PROFESSOR MAX F. MEYER. <i>Coccidioidal Granuloma</i> : DR. FREDERICK W. SHAW	234		
<i>Quotations</i> :			
<i>British Optical Instruments</i>	237		
<i>Scientific Books</i> :			
<i>Pearson's The Life, Letters and Labours of Francis Galton</i> : PROFESSOR RAYMOND PEARL	238		
<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods</i> :			
<i>Hint for Better Geological Photographs</i> : PROFESSOR ELIOT BLACKWELDER. <i>A Siphon Moist Chamber</i> : C. C. THOMAS	241		

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. MCKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal
Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

SCIENCE AND THE SUPERNATURAL¹

By Dr. A. J. CARLSON

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

I INTEND to make this discourse more modest than the title, and I trust you will find it so. Science is one, at least in its essential element, the method of reaching approximate truths. But scientists are many. On the topic before us it is preposterous for any man to speak for science as a whole and, by inference, for all scientists. We have scientists who still pray to the gods, scientists who laugh at the gods, and some who neither pray nor laugh, because they think they understand. I am sure all you expect of me this evening, and certainly all I intend to do, is to discuss the supernatural in the light that years of service in the science of physiology have given me. The topic of this discussion is not of my own selection. The views are my own. But they are neither unique nor original, except in the sense of

¹William Vaughan Moody Lecture, University of Chicago.

being derived from cogitation on the common life, cogitations disciplined by years of research. I am not foolish enough to pretend that I am about to present to you anything that is both new and true. There are able tomes on the nature of science; and literature, *ad infinitum*, on the supernatural, especially in religions. There are able works on the conflicts between science and the supernatural. There are attempts at reconciliation of the supernatural with science. We have, in print, confessions of faith in traditional religions by otherwise competent scientists. We have, also in print, rejections of the supernatural by preachers and teachers of religion. I assume you are familiar with some, if not all, of this literature. Everything I am going to say has already been said, perhaps better, by other people. Nevertheless, here is the confession of a physiologist of lack of faith in the supernatural, and his reasons.

Science

73 (1887)

Science **73** (1887), 10-244.

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/73/1887.citation>

PERMISSIONS

<http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.