Isostasy

Geology

To be sung to the tune of "Maryland, My Maryland.

What is it rules the upper crust?
Isostasy, Isostasy.
What actuates the overthrust?
Isostasy, Isostasy.
What gives the shore lines wanderlust?
What humbles highlands to the dust?
What makes the strongest stratum bust?
Isostasy, Isostasy.

That all's in equilibrium,
So Bowie says, so Bowie says,
Is proven by the pendulum,
So Bowie says, so Bowie says.
And why the plumb line's never plumb
And why the mountains go and come
Is simple as the rule of thumb,
So Bowie says, so Bowie says.

Conservatives in vain have cussed
Isostasy, Isostasy;
The strongest power on earth is just
Isostasy, Isostasy:
So let us down our deep disgust,
If we'd seem up to date we must
Roll up our eyes and take on trust
Isostasy, Isostasy.

Science News-Letter, May 19, 1928

Thirty Million Volts—*Continued*

The spark gap, under the last of the short cylinders, could be regulated from this post, and, from the length of the gap across which the spark would jump the voltage was determined.

As the chief electrical storms of the neighborhood are in the summer, and as the apparatus was not completed until last August, the best storms had to go unused. One storm occurred after it was completed, and indicated the success of the method. The spark gap could not be made larger than about 15 feet, but the spark easily jumped across it at the rate of about one per second and continued for thirty minutes at a time. Also, it was found with an auxiliary collecting antenna, and with distant storms that affected the main station, that a discharge of once a second was possible at all times.

During the winter months, the experiments were discontinued, but the apparatus was left in place. The scientists are now preparing to return, to take full advantage of the storms this season. With the antenna about three hundred feet above the earth, a height that could easily be obtained, voltages as high as thirty million would result.

Dr. Brasch and his colleagues credit Benjamin Franklin with being the pioneer experimenter in the field in which they are working. One possible use of these huge voltages, they say, is to generate extremely rapid cathode rays, similar to those formed in the tube recently developed by Dr. W. D. Coolidge, of the General Electric Company. These are similar to one of the principal radiations from radium, but with 30 million volts, the artificial rays would travel even faster than those emanating from radium itself.

Science News-Letter, May 19, 1928

Primitive men, it is believed, ate only once a day.

Grasshoppers are an important item of food in India.

The price of giraffes has more than doubled since the war.

The natural gaits of the horse are the walk, canter and trot.

Magic Carpet—*Continued*

off the all-necessary sunlight. Weeds are the second great compulsion for the hoe; but as we chop them down we face the discomforting reflection that, try as we may to spare the vegetables, we are cutting their roots, too. Even in their death the weeds do us a mischief.

But under the impervious blanket of asphalt paper they never get a chance to be born. Their seeds may germinate, and their feeble infant sprouts crawl about, vainly seeking the sunlight without which they can not live. But, when their initial stock of nourishment has become exhausted, they perish, and the waiting germ life of the soil seizes upon them and returns them to the mold from whence they came, and the roots of our garden vegetables pluck up their substance and turn it into food for our tables.

Science News-Letter, May 19, 1928

Light colored walls make a room look larger than dark walls.

An airplane recently collided with a mountain peak in Europe, killing two fliers.