

ing an army, while all the world wondered." He brandishes his saber. A shell bursts beside him, filling the air with flying scraps of iron. He must have got back alive from this personally conducted charge of the Indian Light Brigade, for the picture is his own handiwork. But it is the last we see of Little Bear.

The next Indian who owned the book, inheriting it possibly by personally arranging the demise of Little Bear, was a Crow named Crane. Crane seems to have been a riotous, reckless, hellroaring fellow, always hunting trouble and having no difficulty in finding it. Yet he seems to have been able to get the better of all of his arguments (except of course the last one), for he filled many pages of the book with records of his "coups."

His record is markedly different from that of the two preceding owners of the book, in that white men never figure in his "coups"; only other Indians. Either he was on friendly terms with the whites or (much more likely) there weren't any in his neighborhood to pick a fight with. His style of drawing also was cruder and more hasty than that of either Yellow Horse or Little Bear.

The last possessor of this compositely-

edited picture-record was a warrior named Howling Wolf; it is not certain what tribe claimed him. His most striking contribution is the last picture. Howling Wolf stands before an inter-tribal conference. Before him, on the ground, are a peace-pipe and a scalp. If he picks up the one, it means peace, if the other, war.

Did he pick up the peace-pipe and spend his last days quietly at home, until his time came to be taken out to the burial ground, with his precious historical picture-book laid in a blanket beside him? Or did he take the war-path, returning "upon his shield" to take his book the sooner to his last bed? No one knows.

It is in keeping, though, with the drama that strides through the whole book, that even in his last sleep he could not remain undisturbed; and that his rude resurrection should have taken the form it did. Against the railroad as against the plow, symbols of the white man's dominance, the old Indians always cherished an especial hostility. And the railroad won the fight, so ruthless that it would not even let him lie in his grave. The white man, mounted on the iron horse, at last "counted coup."

*Science News Letter, June 1, 1935*



Poison Ivy, Poison Sumac

VACATIONISTS as a rule dread nothing more than "getting a dose of poison ivy." The unsightly blisters, the unendurable itching, the frequently prostrating allergic "shock effect," can combine to ruin a holiday as hardly any other woodland plague is able to do.

Yet it is not necessary to spend one's vacation in a constant state of "ivy jitters." For everybody except the most extremely sensitive, ivy poisoning can be both prevented and cured.

The best prevention is to keep away from it. To do so, you must know it when you see it. That is not difficult. Poison ivy is either a slender low shrub or a vine that clings tight to trees and stone walls with thousands of little roots. Its distinguishing mark is the triple leaf: "Leaflets three, let it be!" states the old rule-of-thumb rime. Its flowers are a loose cluster of inconspicuous greenish bloom; its fruits (frequently persistent from the previous winter) are pallid waxy berries. Don't touch it, and you won't get "bit." The notion that ivy can poison at a distance is simply superstition.

If you find you have touched it, wash your hands at once, and very thoroughly. Strong laundry soap is best; the alkali helps to kill the poison. A more thorough remedy, for cases that actually develop, is a 5 per cent. solution of potassium permanganate. This stains the skin brown but the stain can be removed later with a weak solution of oxalic acid, or just by thorough washing.

To prevent ivy poisoning, wet exposed parts of the skin with a five per cent. solution of ferric chloride in a half-and-half mixture of water and alcohol. Don't wipe off the solution; let it dry on the skin. This will neutralize the poison.

#### SEISMOLOGY

## Severe Earthquake in July If Apparent Rule Operates

LATE July should see, somewhere in the world, a severe earthquake with its focus, or center of motion, relatively close to the surface of the earth.

That is the indication which may be inferred from a report presented before the meeting of the American Geophysical Union, by Prof. H. Landsberg of Pennsylvania State College. Prof. Lands-

berg did not himself venture an earthquake forecast, but he did show a remarkably close hookup between deep-focus earthquakes and shallow-focus quakes following three months later, as a rule in some remote part of the world.

The Formosa quake of the Easter week-end was a deep-focus disturbance, its center being some 35 kilometers, or 22 miles, beneath the surface of the earth. On the basis of Prof. Landsberg's correlations, a destructive shallow-focus earthquake may be expected to occur about a week before the end of July.

Prof. Landsberg also discovered a correlation between deep and shallow-focus earthquakes with a much smaller time lag—some three days before and three days after the deep-focus quake.

How the deep quakes set off the shallow ones is not understood. It is conjectured that the deep-focus disturbances set up strains which the shallow ones relieve.

*Science News Letter, June 1, 1935*

## ● RADIO

Tuesday, June 4, 3:30 p. m., E.S.T.  
THE MEANING OF MATHEMATICS,  
by Dr. E. R. Hedrick, Professor of  
Mathematics, University of California at  
Los Angeles.

Tuesday, June 11, 3:30 p. m., E.S.T.  
ASTRONOMY AS A HOBBY, by Dr.  
Oliver J. Lee, Director, Dearborn Ob-  
servatory, Northwestern University.

In the Science Service series of radio ad-  
dresses given by eminent scientists over  
the Columbia Broadcasting System.