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He Put a Continent on the Map
See Arthur Mee's Heroes

The CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER
AND CHILDREN'S PICTORIAL
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JOE THROWS DOWN HIS CRUTCHES

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ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT MYSTERIES

THE MARVELLOUS POWER OF A BLOODHOUND

A Dramatic Page of Nature's Book Opened on Sussex Downs

A DOG AND ITS SECRET

There was a great adventure on the Sussex Downs not long ago, when a hunted criminal, after days of vain searching, was found at once by the work of bloodhounds.

Of all the wonders which Nature keeps for our surprise none is more astonishing or less to be explained than the power which is given to the dog to follow a scent.

A bloodhound is presented with some article of clothing worn by a person or even with something the person has handled, and, having sniffed at it, the dog will follow unfailingly in that person's track.

Over Hill and Dale

Blind to any distraction and deaf to attempts to call him off the hound will go through field and wood, over hill and dale, and with no more than a pause to pick up the interrupted trail he will cross streams to find his quarry. He follows the scent; and though a score of other persons may have crossed the track and unnumbered other scents conflict with the one he seeks, he seldom or never loses it.

In an inhabited countryside the most skilful of Indian trackers would be at a loss. Ordinary people who have not the tracker's lore in noting a footprint, or broken twigs, or trodden-down grass, can do no better than scour a neighbourhood in great numbers, hoping that in the comb of their advance they may catch the person they seek. But all these, whether they go in battalions or as single spies, must trust to their eyesight even if they have the assistance of a scouting aeroplane. The dog, following his nose, beats them all.

The Bloodhound and the Deer

The bloodhound's sense of smell is miraculous even among other dogs, or when compared with that of deer. It is well known that the deer can never be stalked down wind, because even at a distance of hundreds of yards he will scent his pursuer. Like the deer, the bloodhound has a large moist nose surface. On this surface the currents of air carry what we must believe to be the immeasurably small particles of scent emanating from materials. It is known, of course, that when we smell a rose we take away a speck of it, and so it is with the scent the bloodhound takes; it carries away tiny particles of the actual cause of the scent.

All materials with any scent whatever throw out these particles, though they may be not much larger than molecules. It is the only explanation possible. When the cathedral of Saint Sofia was built many centuries ago musk was mixed with the mortar of two of its pillars, and the scent is said to linger still. All the molecules have not yet been dissipated, though musk itself has vanished from every garden in the world.

This will explain the continuance of the scent of a man's body in anything that has come into contact with it for several days. What remains to be explained is the bloodhound's power of discriminating between this scent and others mingled with it.

It is a faculty not shared equally even among dogs, though among all these smell is the sense on which trained foxhounds follow the fox, nose to the ground, and would not follow him at all if they only sighted him. But there are many days in winter when scent fails owing to conditions of the atmosphere about which no one is in agreement. Then (though unfortunately it does not happen often enough) the hunt has to be called off.

The foxhound, selected by heredity and trained by companionship, has something of the bloodhound faculty. But the bloodhound far surpasses him, and we can only suppose that it is some hereditary streak in composition which gives him this power. He can do what no other creature seems able to do.

On the Way To Runnymede

Dancers in the Runnymede Pageant which is taking place near Egham this week

THE PEARL NECKLACE

If ever a lady deserved her string of pearls she is Mrs Fielding of Blackpool.

An erect little figure in a neat brown overall, white hair curling round her rosy cheeks, she stands by her oyster stall for hours on end. All her life she has been opening oysters, and now and again down the years she has found a pearl. Mrs Fielding has kept carefully these precious rewards won from her daily work, and now she is going to have them made into a necklace. She has certainly earned it.

NEW TRAINS

WHAT TWO CLEVER MEN HAVE DONE

Russia Experiments With Railways of the Future

AERO AND BALL-BEARING

Two clever Russian engineers have devised new trains.

Waldner has invented what is called the Aero-Train and Yarmolchuk the Ball-Bearing Train.

Waldner's aero-train runs on an elevated single-rail track and is designed in the form of Zeppelin-shaped cars linked together by a rigid steel frame and extending over both sides of the single-rail track. It has two engines of 1060 horse-power and aeroplane propellers and will seat 300 passengers.

The train has a single row of wheels between the cars. Equilibrium is maintained by an arrangement of runners fitting between the inner side of each car and the concrete framework supporting the rail.

Independent of the Weather

The first experimental line will be built in Turkmenistan in Central Asia, where the mountainous nature of some sections and the deserts make the operation of ordinary railways difficult. Aero-lines, being independent of meteorological conditions, may play an important part in the development of transportation in these regions.

Yarmolchuk's invention is also interesting. Just in the same way that a bicycle maintains equilibrium in a single line, so the ball-bearing train runs uprightly in a groove.

The cars are streamlined in form, and run on motorised ball-bearings in a grooved concrete track. Each car rides on two large motorised balls 12 feet in diameter. On the axle of each ball is suspended a powerful but compact motor.

The motors remain stationary, but operate on the axle, thus revolving the balls, which propel the train with a minimum of lost power.

More Than 150 Miles an Hour

The balls are almost as high as the cars in which they are placed, thus giving the train a low centre of gravity. Each unit of the train has its own means of propulsion. Each car is to be 120 feet long and will accommodate 110 passengers.

When moving in the groove the cars are absolutely steady and maintain a stable equilibrium both when travelling in a straight line or taking curves.

The train can attain a speed of more than 150 miles an hour with the same amount of current consumed by an ordinary electric train. Transport reform is clearly in its infancy. We ourselves invented the locomotive, but we do not appear to be maintaining the lead in locomotive matters.