

mon rumor says that at this time the State Legislature was "greased," and that not a cent of the \$47,000,000 which was to have been paid for the road was ever received into the treasury of Pennsylvania; or as one visitor to this historic point writes: "Only another instance, by the way, to show the politicians of the present day are simply encroaching upon the methods of those of older times." Immediately following the charge of bribery upon the part of the railroad company, Pennsylvania turned from a Democratic into a Whig State.

The best time made on the Old Portage Road for the forty miles between Hollidaysburg and Johnstown was twelve hours. Express trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad now run a similar parallel distance over the Allegheny Mountains in a trifle over one hour. The passenger traffic on the road in those days was usually limited to one car each way a day, with a capacity of thirty people. The locomotives, as in the case of those in use in England to-day, had but little protection of the engineer and fireman. The passenger cars were attached to the rear of the train. In descending the planes, an ingeniously constructed two-wheeled safety car was attached in front of the train, and came automatically into service immediately upon the breaking of a cable. An old employé of the road states that serious accidents very rarely occurred. The inclined planes were operated by stationary engines of eighty horse-power each, located at the head of each plane. Double endless cables were used, made at first of hemp, three inches in diameter, and later of iron. In their mode of operation differing from the planes in use in Pittsburg and other hilly cities to-day, the trains on those planes were each attached upon their arrival to the cable,

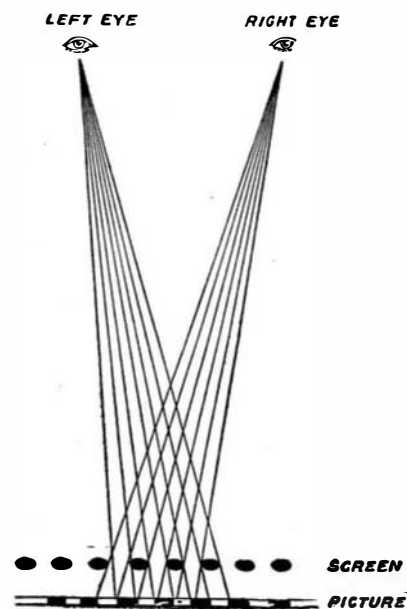


Diagram to Show How One Eye Sees One Series of Stripes While the Other Sees Only the Other Series.

instead of being permanently connected with it. It required the work of an expert "hitcher" to attach the train with the cable by a short cable of great strength. The weight of the descending train was used to balance that of the one ascending, on double tracks. It is hardly necessary to say, in quoting the words of a present-day passenger conductor, that in the Old Portage days there was no "running through midnight fogs at the terrific speed of 60 to 90 miles per hour." Then ten miles per hour was dreaded as "dangerous speed."

Many of the culverts along the line of the Old Portage Road were not built with the keystone for strength, as at the present day; but following the method of construction of the period, about 1830, were built with the rows of stones running in a spiral form to give the required strength. In the photograph of the double stone culvert on the line of the New Portage Railroad, built in 1848, it will be seen that the more modern keystone method of constructing stone arches is employed.

#### The Scientific American en Route.

Regular readers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN will be gratified to note that some fifty express trains arriving or leaving New York daily carry the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN in the library or smoking cars. It will be found on the trains of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, the Lake Shore Railroad, the "Big Four" Railroad, the Michigan Central Railroad, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, and the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN will also be found on seventy-five of the transatlantic and coastwise steamers, so that its regular readers will find it *en route*.

#### A PAVEMENT OF WHALES' BONES.

BY ARTHUR INKERSLEY.

One of the most picturesque towns in California or on the Pacific Slope is Monterey. Historically, it is the most interesting town in the Western States. It



A PAVEMENT OF THE VERTEBRÆ AND BONES OF WHALES.

was the capital of Alta California when the Spanish held sway, in the days "before the Gringo came." Father Junipero Serra landed at Monterey, which is on the bay of the same name, on June 3, 1770, more than six years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The missionary priest preached to the Indians and founded the mission church of San Carlos, which is still in excellent preservation. Many relics of Spanish rule are to be seen in Monterey, such as the old custom house, the jail, etc.

Besides being the capital of the Spanish province, Monterey was an important whaling station, many of those great mammals being found in Monterey Bay. The walk leading from the street to the main door of San Carlos mission church is paved with the vertebrae and other bones of whales. The accompanying photograph, made at the end of August last, shows the composition and present condition of this remarkable pavement.

#### THE PARALLAX STEREOGRAM.

An interesting method of obtaining a stereoscopic effect by means of a lined screen is that known under the above title. By means of this invention, which we owe to Mr. F. Ives, the subject appears to stand out in high relief. The general principles involved are these:

Two photographs are first obtained by twin stereoscopic lenses, in the usual way, but interposed between the subject and the lenses is a screen of fine parallel lines. These lines are spaced by distances equal to their thickness, one-hundredth of an inch. Consequently, the negatives consist of a series of stripes, or rather of a number of long, excessively narrow photographs separated by blank spaces of exactly the same dimensions.

The negatives are now superposed so that the stripes left blank on one exactly coincide with the stripes of the other containing the picture. As can be seen from the accompanying illustration, the result is anything but beautiful. The screen and picture, properly spaced, are mounted in a frame, which when held up to the



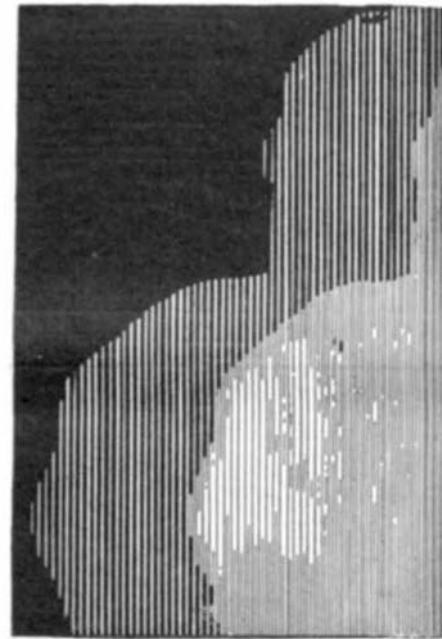
COMPOSITE PICTURE OF TWO STEREOSCOPIC VIEWS, EACH COVERING ALTERNATE STRIPES.

light produces a most excellent stereoscopic effect. As the illustration shows, this is due to the fact that the right eye sees one picture and the left eye the other, corresponding one. But these two images are superposed by the eye, and the result is a view in relief, due to the angularity of the lines of sight from both eyes.

#### The Number of the Nebulæ.

Prof. Keeler, soon after beginning his programme of work with the Crossley reflector, showed that the number of nebulae is very much greater than had been supposed. He conservatively placed the number within reach of that telescope at one hundred and twenty thousand. His programme comprised the taking of photographs of one hundred and four of the brighter nebulae and clusters located in all parts of the sky within reach of the telescope, i. e., north of declination  $-25^{\circ}$ . The recent completion of this programme enables us to revise his estimate.

In fifty-seven of the regions seven hundred and forty-five new nebulae have been discovered. Almost all of them are very small and faint. The regions in which no new ones were found were, as a rule, those surrounding the clusters and very large nebulae. There were one hundred and forty-two known nebulae in these regions, making the total number of nebulae observed eight hundred and eighty-seven, an average of eight and one-half per region. As it would take sixty-two thousand such photographs to cover the entire sky, the results indicate five hundred thousand as the corresponding number of nebulae within reach of the Crossley reflector. This assumes that the small portion observed



Portion of Picture (left-hand top corner) Enlarged to Show System of Stripes.

represents fairly the entire sky. It is well known that the nebulae are much more numerous in some parts of the sky than in others. This is a tendency which, so far as we know, affects large and small nebulae alike. The fact that a considerable number of other subjects than the nebulae (presumably non-nebulous regions) are included in the programme, indicates that the portion observed is fairly representative of the whole sky.

Longer exposures, more sensitive plates, and more perfect photographs will undoubtedly reveal some nebulae which do not now appear and others which are confused with the faint stars. It seems probable, therefore, that the number of the nebulae will ultimately be found to exceed a million.

The positions of the new nebulae discovered on the Crossley photographs have been determined, and a catalogue of them will be printed in the volume of reproductions of nebulae and clusters, soon to be issued. C. D. FERRINE.

Lick Observatory.

At the station in the southern hemisphere of the Lick Observatory, located at Santiago de Chile, observations have been made during the past year of Alpha Centauri, and an average difference between the radial velocities of the two components is found of about 5.17 kilometers. This may perhaps be due to the relative orbital motion of the two components, and, if so, it would indicate a parallax of 0.76, a combined mass of the components of 1.9 that of the sun; and a mean distance between the two components of  $3.46 \times 10^9$  kilometers. The parallax thus indicated is almost precisely that resulting from heliometer observations.