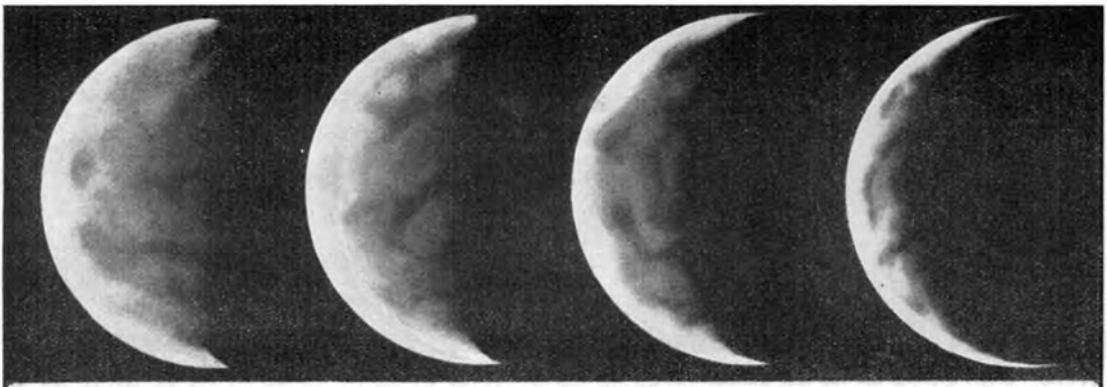
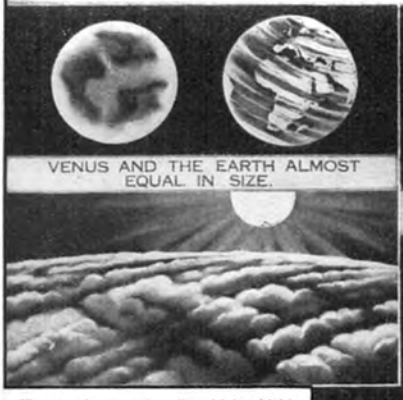
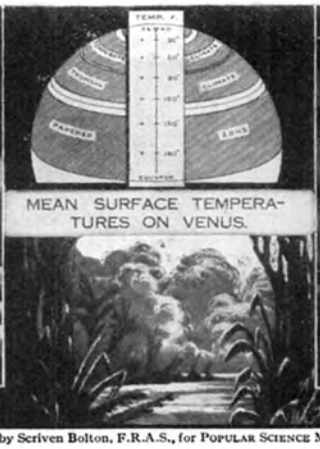


LATEST VIEWS OF VENUS, OBTAINED WITH THE 2-FOOT TELESCOPE OF THE WATERLOO OBSERVATORY, LEEDS. THE MARKINGS REPRESENT BOTH CLOUDS AND SURFACE SHADINGS.



VENUS AND THE EARTH ALMOST EQUAL IN SIZE.

Heavy clouds, 80 miles high, shield Venus' surface from the sun's great heat



MEAN SURFACE TEMPERATURES ON VENUS.

Tropical Venus may be luxuriant with vegetation and dominated by monsters

Drawn by Scriven Bolton, F.R.A.S., for POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY

Lifting the Veil from Venus

Is Our Sister Planet Teeming with Ferocious Monsters?

By Scriven Bolton, F.R.A.S.

WHILE Mars, our older brother in the family of planets, has been holding the stage in one of his periodic visits, astronomers have been quietly busy seeking a closer acquaintance with our younger sister planet, Venus, which forever hides her face behind a heavy veil of clouds.

Recent observations with telescopes and spectroscopes at Leeds, England, have established new evidence concerning the length of the Venutian day. They have led also to fascinating new speculation concerning the life on this comparatively young planet—a planet that we may very well believe is dominated by grotesque and ferocious monsters—huge reptiles and winged dragons such as lived on earth five million years ago.

Venus is nearly a twin sister of our Earth in size and mass. She also is the nearest to the Earth of the large planets—her average distance from us is 67,000,000 miles. Yet we have been able to learn comparatively little about her. This is because the surface of the planet is concealed by a thick cloud veil extending to the astonishing height of 80 miles.

The recent observations indicate that this outer canopy completes one revolution in about 20 days. From this fact we may believe that the actual surface of Venus completes a revolution in about the same time our Earth does. This assumption is substantiated by the fact that in 1883 dust from the volcano Krakatoa, thrown to a height of 70 miles, took 20 days to complete a revolution.

Venus seems to be more like Earth than any heavenly body known. Although her surface temperatures, latitude for latitude, must be higher than on Earth, beings similar to us might find suitable abode near the poles. The exceedingly moist climate must be productive of abundant vegetation and teeming animal life, similar to that on Earth when fierce monsters dominated regions that were still in the terrible throes of evolution.

Scriven Bolton's conception of a fierce dragon such as he believes may inhabit the tropics of Venus