

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER FOR TRANSMISSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TO CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND BY MAGAZINE POST.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1929.

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# Landscape on Mercury: Two Hemispheres—of Intense Heat and Cold.

FROM THE DRAWINGS BY LUCIEN RUDAUX. (COPYRIGHTED.)



ON THAT SIDE OF MERCURY (THE PLANET NEAREST TO THE SUN) WHICH IS ALWAYS TURNED TOWARDS IT, AND IS SCORCHED BY INTENSE HEAT INTOLERABLE TO MAN: AN ASTRONOMEI'S IDEA OF MERCURIAL LANDSCAPE, WITH THE SUN AS A STUPENDOUS FURNACE—SHOWING CLOUDS PROBABLY FORMED OF WIND-DRIVEN DUST.



THE ONLY PART OF MERCURY WHICH A HUMAN BEING MIGHT FIND BEARABLE: THE BORDERLAND BETWEEN ETERNAL DAY AND ETERNAL NIGHT.



LANDSCAPE ON THE SUNLIT SIDE OF MERCURY, OUTLINED WITH STARK DISTINCTNESS IN THE BLINDING LIGHT: AN ASTRONOMER'S IMAGINATIVE CONCEPTION.

"The soil of Mercury," writes M. Rudaux, "must be terribly dry, and water can hardly exist there. Certain light vapours sometimes visible are probably wind-blown dust-clouds. Mercury turns on its own axis in the same time it takes to revolve round the sun; consequently one side always receives the solar rays, while the other remains in eternal night. Landscapes would be defined with stark distinctness. A



ON THE DARK SIDE OF MERCURY, ALWAYS TURNED AWAY FROM THE SUN: AN IMAGINED LANDSCAPE, WITH VENUS AND THE EARTH IN THE SKY.

man would be blinded by the dazzling sunlight, and could not endure the heat. He would seek the cooler regions on the borders of day and night, but could not pass beyond, for the dark side is inconceivably cold. Here the only light is that of stars."