



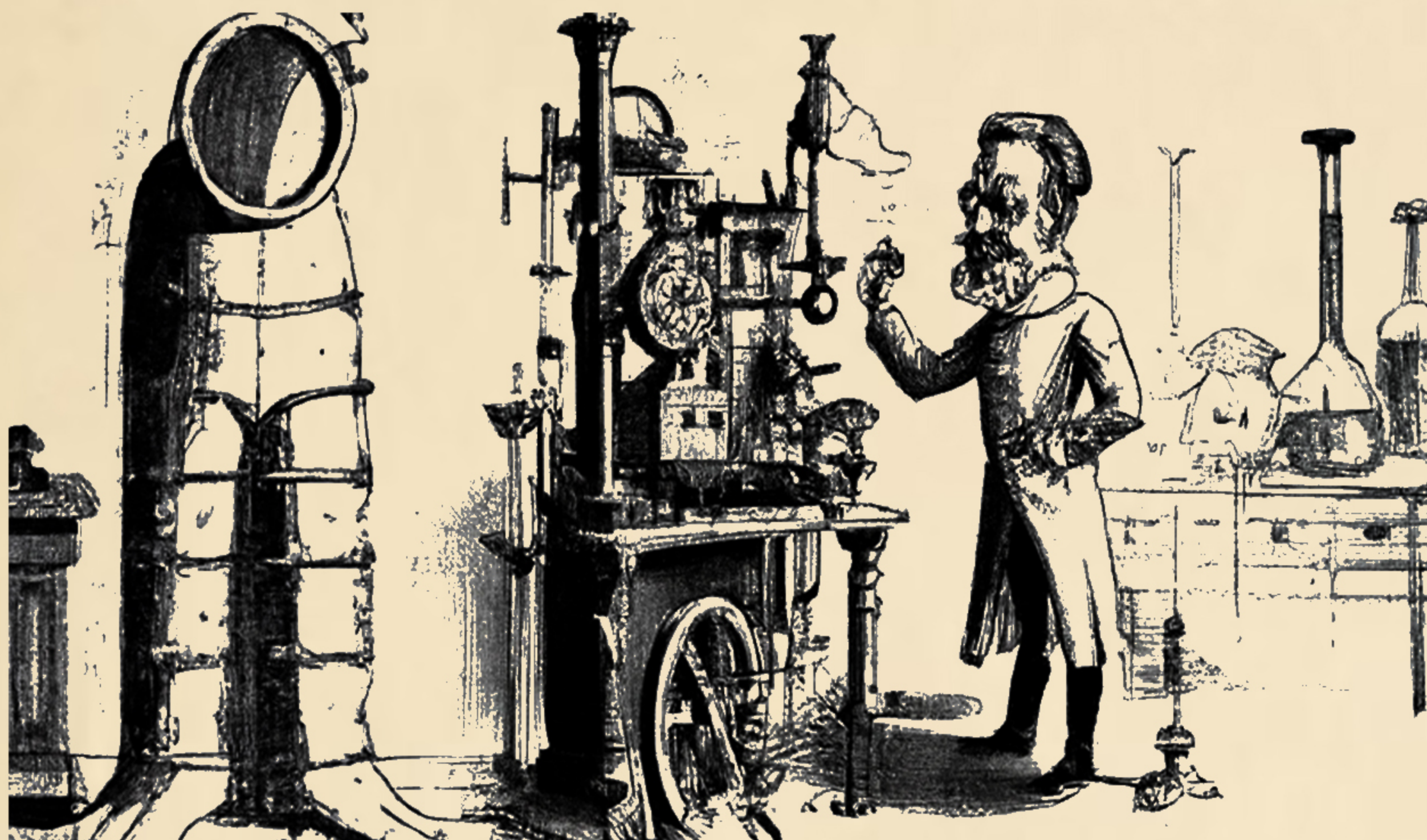
SCIENCE & GOSSIP ILLUSTRATED



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Mad scientist embarks on harebrained expedition inside the Earth

THIS past Friday, the halls of the Geological Society reverberated with the sound of barely restrained giggles as the assembled members were treated to a presentation that tested the bounds of credulity in the most hilarious way.

A “Professor” Brown of a local university in an obscure corner of the northern counties revealed his plans to burrow through the Earth’s crust in a manned vehicle.

The thing will be powered by a substance he has named the *minuscule*, which he claims to be the most diminutive element in the physical world, the building block of every substance known to exist. By chopping up these minuscules into even smaller bits, he hopes to see the release of energy of a magnitude never previously recorded by science. He plans to use *Uranium*, an inconspicuous rock more commonly used for creating garden paths or sprinkled as a savoury condiment on beets and turnips.

The vehicle will carry a crew of ten men, one dog and a small parliament of parakeets. The aim of the expedition is *not* to take geological samples from the depths, but to discover and document a theoretical civilisation of savage human-like beings dwelling in caverns and tunnels far below the surface.

The evidence for such a creature is admittedly non-existent, but the “professor” is firmly convinced of its existence, based on philosophical speculation and logical deduction from facts gathered in literary sources composed by the likes of Mr Verne, the French fantasist.

We look forward to the reports from this expedition with indecorous glee.

Yours sincerely,

Manderville Carter, *your science columnist*

And so it was...

...that on the 23rd of July this year, that the popular online communication service known as *Twitter* was rebranded X. In quick succession other services followed suit, eager to keep their eye on the ball, as it were. *Facebook* became Y, *Spotify* became Z, and the Swedish company *Vattenfall* changed to the letter Ä, made famous by that other Swedish company K, previously known as *IKEA*. *Google* mysteriously remained Google, but as things unraveled it was discovered that they in fact had taken the name *Alphabet* several years before, and therefore claiming the rights to all the world’s trademarks in one fell swoop.

The latest in building types

In his efforts to build the first really colossal building in his native land of Egypt, king *Zoxer* (also known as *Djoser*, *Djeser*, and even *Tosorthros*) stumbled upon a completely new type of building which he proposes be named *Pyramid*. It is an impressive sight, but the underlying principle is rather crude: place a reasonably even layer of stones on a flattened surface, then proceed to place a slightly smaller area of stones in a layer above. Continue in this fashion until the edges meet, and you have reached the top.

The king has mandated he be buried in this thing once he is dead, and then venerated as a god for all eternity. We’ll see about that!. This type of building is bound to spread across the civilised world, which for the moment involves, well, *Egypt*.

Communication news

A new system of producing text for books and rude pamphlets, having moveable letter shapes covered in an inky fluid make impressions on vellum. For the budget-minded, a new artificial writing surface has recently come to market. Called paper, it is described as almost as good as real vellum, and considerably cheaper. No animals need be harmed, or even killed.

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