The snowflake potato is due to him He also used his leisure hours in plant collection in New England and Eastern Canada and began to send mounted specimens to collectors in Europe and America

Change in Sphere

By now his wife found life difficult with her mother in law and Pringle s absorption in his own work added to her unhappiness, with the result, they separated in 1877 Deeply affected by this domestic event and eager for a change of environment, Pringle began in 1880 his important explorations outside the United States—particularly in Mexico Botanically, Mexico was then an undiscovered country Pringle put in years of systematic search in this country and supplied specimens of Mexican flora to many herbaria He also built and maintained an extensive herbarium of his own at the University of Vermont

Pringle cultivated the habit of frugal living Throughout his later life he prepared his own simple meals He carried consideration for others almost to an extreme He would select the heavier load and give his servant the lighter one to carry The following extract from a letter of his shows the man It would be too painful to write my autobiography Shyness has become habitual with me Besides my aversion to publicity, I am too busy to write much All my thought and labour goes to the building of a great and superior herbarium

Pringle died of pneumonia May 26, 1911

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

Planets during June 1938.—Mercury which is a morning star at the beginning of the month, will be in conjunction with the Sun on June 22 Venus will continue to be a bright object, visible in the western sky for about two and a half hours after sunset Mars will not be favourably placed for observation, being too close to the Sun during the month

Jupiter and Saturn can be conveniently observed in the latter part of the night The former is in the constellation Aquarius and rises an hour before midnight On June 22, it will be at one of the stationary points of its orbit Saturn is in the constellation Pisces and will rise three hours after Jupiter The ring ellipse can be seen considerably widened, the major and minor axes being 38 and 7 seconds of arc respectively Uranus is also a morning star, and situated a little to the south of the star ϵ Arietis (mag 4 6) while Neptune will be on the meridian at sunset very close to σ Leonis—a star of the fourth magnitude

The Milky Way.—Many of the interesting regions of the galaxy will be in a favourable position for observation during the month The rich fields of star clouds in Sagittarius and the dark holes and rifts in Ophiuchus will be crossing the meridian at about midnight These are extremely interesting objects in the southern sky which will well repay a close study Towards the north can be seen the galaxy dividing into two streams in the constellations Cygnus and Aquila The great globular cluster in Hercules (Messier 13) the finest of its class, is just visible to the unaided eye as a faint patch of light and is worth observing with some simple optical aid

Variable Stars.—Mira (O ceti), one of the best known variable stars, is increasing in brightness and will probably become visible with the naked eye, its course of light changes can be readily deduced by comparison with neighbouring stars It is expected to reach maximum brightness (about second magnitude) at the end of August χ Cygni is another variable which is likely to reach naked eye visibility during the month

T P B.