



THE LATEST PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MOON—This picture was taken with the new 100-inch telescope at Mount Wilson, Cal., the largest glass in the world, and reveals the world's great satellite at closer range than it has ever before been seen by the eyes of men. It shows the tip of the upper horn of the crescent at the moment of last quarter. The smooth area in the center is the Mare Imbrium, a great sheet of hardened lava. The ring mountains are extinct volcanoes. The little white arrows point to enormous cracks in the moon's surface—chasms which split high mountains from crest to base and are a score or more miles deep.

At the lower left is the large crater known as Copernicus. It stands alone in a comparatively empty space, rearing its gigantic ramparts four and one-half miles into the sky. Copernicus was in eruption rather late in the brief history of the moon as a living world, but it was one of the most terrific explosions that ever occurred on our satellite. The eruption blew a hole in the moon's crust fifty miles in diameter and scattered the debris in every direction for 500 miles. The white streaks radiating out of the crater show where the erupted dust fell. When the vent was finally blown clear, lava came boiling up and solidified on the floor of the crater, where it now lies.

The moon is a dead world. Nothing ever happens on its arid plains or rugged, fire-tortured mountains. There is no water there, no air, no life. There is no diffused light in the lunar sky, and consequently all the shadows are as black as ink. The sunshine is very harsh and untempered. In the daytime the rocks become hot, and at night the temperature falls to almost absolute zero.

The scale of the illustration is about seventy-five miles to the inch.

(Photograph from Wide World Photos.)