

are there, and which afforded an inexhaustible water supply in a land which is conspicuous for the absence of surface or flowing water. It is not too much to say that the presence of two such wells at one place pre-determined under primitive conditions that a large center of population should one day grow up around them.

One of these wells was used as a source for the water-supply of the city; the other as a place of sacrifice wherein the most beautiful maidens of the tribe were hurled in times of great drought as sacrifices to the offended rain deities. Today the vast courts and colonnades, the lofty pyramids and spacious palaces, the temples and terraces, are silent; a great forest has overgrown them and overthrown them.

It is in these remote solitudes, that the ringing sound of the ax, pick and shovel of the excavator will soon be heard, and the intensive study of this former metropolis of ancient America will be commenced.

CHICAGO MUSEUM DIGS NEAR SITE OF BABYLON

Important information regarding the cradle of civilization in Mesopotamia is expected by the Field Museum of Natural History from the joint expedition of the Museum and Oxford University, now at work excavating the ancient capital of Sumer and Akkad, eight miles east of the site of the city of Babylon. The work is in charge of Dr. Stephen Langdon of Oxford.

This expedition is only one of four now in the field, Dr. D. C. Davies, director of the Museum, announced today. E.S. Riggs and members of the paleontological expedition are looking for fossils in Argentina, while C.C. Sanborn is in Chile, collecting birds and mammals. Edmund Heller, who was one of the leading members of the Roosevelt expedition to Africa in 1909, is again in that country heading a party in search of game animals near Lake Tanganyika. W.J. Morden is collecting game animals in southern Asia and a party under H.B. Conover is collecting specimens of game birds in Alaska.

BALLOON TORN FROM GROUND CARRIES SCIENTIST INTO STORM

The U.S. Weather Bureau's storm sleuth extra-ordinary, Dr. C.L. Meisinger, ended his fifth thrilling voyage from Scott Field, Illinois, April 29, at ten o'clock at night when rain forced down his balloon three miles southwest of Hartsburg, Missouri, and a quarter of a mile from the Missouri River.

Dr. Meisinger and his pilot, Lieut. James T. Nealy of the U.S. Army, left Scott Field suddenly when a gust of wind tore their balloon from the hands of assistants on the ground and carried it bouncing across the field for a quarter of a mile before it started up.

The balloon took off in a south wind at 2:55 p.m. This changed to south-east, and east as an altitude of between four and five thousand feet was reached. Carried westward over Missouri, in the balloonists encountered snow and rain. The rain finally forced down the big gas bag which landed safely in the dark at 10. p.m. in a northwest wind.