

dawn of the Mesozoic, or Middle Ages of geology. This Permian age began with a glacial epoch, such as the earth experienced recently, but more severe and longer-enduring. Queer fern-like plants, adapted to severe climates, were the first to die. Then came another long season of equable weather, though part of it at least had seasons of cold or drought, for annual rings again appeared in perennial plants. But the great climatic feature of this age was its close, when the whole world apparently was scourged with drought. Plants adapted to desert conditions of life dominated the earth, and the first ancestors of certain modern conifer families appeared.

According to Dr. White, we are living in an abnormal period. "Relative equability and mildness of climate are, geologically speaking, normal," he said. Great climatic range and variability, both seasonal and geographic, are abnormal, and are, I believe, confined for the most part to periods of diastrophic revolution, such as that in which we live."

TEMPLE TEN MILES LONG CONTAINS MAP OF MOON

The most important aboriginal temple in the United States was built by prehistoric Mound Builders in and around the present site of Portsmouth, Ohio. The ten miles of embankments still traceable there represent various heavenly bodies including sun, moon, stars, and banks which accurately reproduce the form of two of the "seas" on the moon, used in an ancient sky worship. Such are the conclusions presented to the American Association for the Advancement of Science by Stansbury Hagar, secretary of the Council of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

The main avenue, formed by parallel embankments 160 feet apart four feet high and twenty feet wide, begins in Kentucky and extends across the Ohio River and represents the form of a serpent. Mr. Hagar pointed out that objects exhumed from other mounds showed the influence of Mexican and Maya culture, in which the serpent was extensively used as a religious symbol.

The only serpent temple which can compare with the Portsmouth mounds, Mr. Hagar said, is that of Karnac in Brittany which is eleven miles long.

NEW OIL TO BE OBTAINED FROM USED OIL

Fresh lubricating oil and refined kerosene may be salvaged from the used oil in crank cases. By agitating the used oil with a solution of sodium silicate and then distilling with steam an oil may be recovered which compares favorably with new lubricant. F. H. Rhodes and H. J. Haon, jr., of Cornell University announce in the issue of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry to appear next.

Because the salvaged oil has been heated to such a high temperature it is even better for use than fresh oil for automobiles as it is not so easily cracked. The residue could then be blended with naphtha or casinghead gasoline and be used either as a motor fuel or as kerosene.

A method of producing a heavy grade of dark paper from shavings and other pulp plant waste has been developed at the University of Oregon.
