

## DISCOVER RUSSIAN SITE POPULAR WITH PREHISTORIC MEN

Habitation by prehistoric people as far back as 100,000 years ago of a site on the Volga River near Samara, in Russia, is revealed by the researches of Miss Vera P. Misinova, and described by her in a report received by Dr. George Grant MacCurdy, professor of anthropology at Yale University and director of the American School for Prehistoric Research.

The place investigated by Miss Misinova is known as Postnikova, and is important because of the sequence of ancient cultures found there. It is located at the junction of a ravine, known as the Postnikov, with the Volga. This seems to have made it a desirable habitation from very early times.

On the top are remains of the late iron age, dating from about 500 B. C., Dr. MacCurdy explained, but on digging down there were found remains of human habitations in the bronze age, probably dating from about 2500 B. C. to 1200 B. C. Under this layer were found relics from the early neolithic period, such as flaked arrowheads, but no pottery or polished stone implements were present. This layer probably dates back to about 5000 B. C. to 15,000 B. C.

A curious feature of the place, according to Dr. MacCurdy, is that the layer under this was merely a deposit of rubble, with water worn fragments of limestone, but devoid of any products of human workmanship. Yet under this was found a layer probably belonging to the poleolithic, or old stone age, which dates back from 25,000 to 100,000 years. This contained specimens of cruder chipping than the upper layers, and, he says, is of the greatest interest.

"Miss Misinova and her small band of fellow students deserve the greatest credit for what they have been able to accomplish during the last few summers in the field," said Dr. MacCurdy. "Last summer they covered more than 800 miles in the northwestern part of the Samara district on foot."

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## SPLEEN AN AID IN RESISTING TUBERCULOSIS AND TUMORS

Modern medical science is at last unraveling that physiological mystery of the ages, the purpose of the spleen in the human system.

It has been known since classical times that the spleen could be removed without any apparent ill effects on the patient. Various conjectures, all more or less erroneous as to what its purpose could be in the human anatomy, have come down to us. By the last half of the 19th century it was definitely established that it had something to do with the purification of the blood as well as the formation of some of the blood cells, and though it was not necessary for life these functions after removal were taken over by the bone marrow and other organs.

In a resume of the more recent work done on this mysterious organ, by Dr. E. B. Krumbhaar of Philadelphia, we find that the spleen is an important source of antibodies, those little-understood elements in the blood that help kill off bacteria. Laboratory experiments seem to show that the spleen plays a considerable part in resistance to such infections as tuberculosis and also to the growth of tumors. It has been found that tumor grafts make much less growth in the spleen than in any other organ, and that its removal definitely cuts down the resistance to tumor inoculation. Some experimenters believe that it contains a substance