

## 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

actually destructive to tumor cells but this has not yet been conclusively proved.

Two doctors of New York City, Dr. S. Shapiro and Dr. F. H. Frankel, have tried to ascertain the effect of feeding extracts of spleen and bone marrow upon the formation of red corpuscles. Their patients showed an increase in the number of red cells while being fed the extract but the count went down as soon as the dose was stopped. The definite establishment of the fact that such extracts contain a substance which will increase the production of red corpuscles would be of inestimable value in the treatment of many diseases, particularly anemia.

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#### TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

SCIENCE AS REVELATION; by John M. Watson. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1925. 303 pp., \$2.25.

This is a very interesting attempt to show that the truths of science are as much a revelation of divine will as anything in sacred writings. In separate chapters the author presents the views of the astronomer, physicist, chemist, biologist and other scientists, as he conceives them, ending with chapters on "The New Religion" and "The New Revelation". This "New" religion he summarizes as "the religion of the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and a universe that is home to them both. It is the Religion of Universal Truth.

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ANIMALS LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE. By William A. Kepner. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1925.

An older and more complacent generation looked upon man as the only animal who takes thought for the morrow; Prof. Kepner gives us not new facts but a new viewpoint: he sharpens our consciousness of things we already know about animals, and shows that ants and even animalcules are endowed, each in his own kind, with a share of the fire of Prometheus. A very useful book for sluggish biophilosophical livers.

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The apricot is a native of China.

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Pork is the chief meat eaten by the Chinese.

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A knife with 75 blades has been made by an English cutler.

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The tiger is more intelligent than the lion, trainers say.

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