

WHY FLOUR SHOULD NOT BE GROUND TOO FINE

Flour ground too fine does not make good bread. While millers have always been aware of this fact no one seems ever to have determined upon what the poorer quality depended. Accordingly, Drs. C. L. Alsberg and E. P. Griffing, two biological chemists of the Food Research Institute at Stanford University, have undertaken a series of experiments to answer this question.

They have found that in over ground flours the starch granules are injured so that carbon dioxide is given off at first instead of gradually throughout the whole baking process. This gives a bread that "rises" too fast at first and will not "come up" in the oven.

The gluten, also, of very finely ground flours is injured. Gluten is the substance in dough that gives it elasticity. Without this elastic property the dough is very difficult to knead. Any housewife knows that dough that is "crumbly" rather than "stretchy" will not make good bread.

The facts presented in the investigation show that the baking quality of flour is modified considerably by the mere mechanical processes to which it is subjected. Further studies are in progress at the Food Research Institute at Stanford to determine more fully the possibility of improvement of flour by the mechanical treatment.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO EXCAVATE MANY SITES FOR EARLY MAN

Extensive excavations in Czechoslovakia are expected to yield rich booty to the students of man's remote ancestors. Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, of the Smithsonian Institution, in a recent issue of the Journal of Physical Anthropology, says that this section contains three major stations of Aurignacian man who lived in the neighborhood of 20,000 years ago, more or less.

It is hoped that the work at Vistonice, one of the greatest sites for remains of this period so far discovered, will reveal burial grounds of these long extinct races. A veritable cemetery of mammoth bones has already been unearthed at this point.

Predmost, in central Moravia, which has in the past yielded vast collections, was until recently thought to be exhausted. The diggings of a brick concern, however, in 1925 brought to light the fact that the site was much more extensive than was formerly believed and anthropologists are eagerly looking forward to what may yet be brought to light.

The excavations in the course of engineering works is responsible for the discovery of a third site of great promise near the manufacturing city of Vitkovice, northern Moravia.

The excavations to be undertaken this year at all these places are being financed by the Czechoslovakian government and will be carried out under the supervision of the Czechoslovak Archaeological Institute and the Zemske Museum at Brno. In addition to the three great Aurignacian sites there have now been located in Moravia no less than 70, mostly as yet untouched, sites of palaeolithic man.

Moravia (the central part of Czechoslovakia) has been, Dr. Hrdlicka explained, a particularly favorable region for occupation by early man. It is for the most part a beautiful gently rolling country of rich soils and good climate; while the limestone hills are full of ancient caves.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

MICROSCOPY IN THE SERVICE OF MAN. By Robert M. Neill, New York; Henry Holt and Company. Home University Series. 1926. \$1.00.

This little book contains a rapid summary of the manifold aspects of human life that have been affected by the new sight given to man by the invention of the compound microscope. It is a sharp reminder to scientists that one of the things they take for granted is really a brazen and crystal door into a whole world of wonder and romance; and it should be a revelation to the inquiring layman.

COLLEGE PHYSICS; by A. Wilmer Duff. New York; Longmans, Green and Co., 1925. 484 pp., \$3.00.

In this book, the publishers have produced a really good general physics. All the fundamental facts are presented, and without too great use of mathematical expressions, although the author does not hesitate to bring them in when necessary. Such recent advances as the quantum theory, the theory of relativity and X-ray spectra, are briefly mentioned.

ASTRONOMICAL PHYSICS; by F. J. M. Stratton. New York, E. P. Dutton and Co., 1926. 213 pp., \$5.00.

With the great advance that recent years have seen in the physics of the stars as well as of terrestrial bodies, such a book as this one of Dr. Stratton's is most welcome, for it presents in small compass the latest and best views of the physical conditions of the stars, and the methods by which they are determined. Obviously, to treat of such subjects as the sun, stellar evolution, novas, variable stars, nebulae, and still others, each of which has been the subject of numerous treatises, in the space of 213 pages, is not easy, especially if it is to remain intelligible. However, the author has achieved a considerable degree of success and while the book is not one to be recommended for light reading, it is easily comprehensible to anyone with a general knowledge of modern physics.

The brilliant bird of paradise is a close relative of the common crow.

The average family in the United States spends \$10 a year for soap.
