ANTHROPOLOGY

First Details On Java Skull

Details of the important discovery of the new Pithecanthropus relics in Java have been lacking until authentic information, given in the following article, was obtained by cable. The interesting story of the discovery of the first bones of Pithecanthropus and the place of the ape-man in pre-human history was described in an article in the NEWS-LETTER for October 9.

First authentic announcement of details of the new discovery of prehistoric man in Java, has been made to Science Service by the Governor General of Java, Dr. A. C. D. de Graeff, through a cablegram from Buitenzorg, Java. The ancient fossil skull, which was unearthed by natives, is in the possession of Dr. C. E. J. Heberlein, physician in the Dutch civil service, and is described as a damaged cast in spongy stone of volcanic origin.

The upper part of the skull, Dr. de Graeff states, looks like the skull-top of Pithecanthropus erectus, famous ape-man of some 500,000 years ago, and was discovered at the same site.

Finding of the new Javanese skull is traced by Dr. C. E. J. Heberlein to a lecture given by Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, anthropologist of the Smithsonian Institution, when the anthropologist visited Java in the summer of 1925.

In a letter to Dr. Hrdlicka, Dr. Heberlein states that he had long been interested in geology, although he is a doctor by profession, and that the lecture caused him to visit Trinil this summer in order to see the famous site where the important remains of Pithecanthropus were discovered in 1891. His casual excursion yielded the new specimen which apparently belongs to the same ancient time. The object had been unearthed by natives, and judging by the description it had been handled with some care.

The new fossil skull which will share honors with Pithecanthropus as being the oldest known remains of a man-like creature, consists of the two frontal bones, the right and two-thirds of the left parietal bones, the upper part of the right and a little of the left temporal bones and the supraorbital arch.

The object is described as a cast, but since the ridges over the eyes are indicated, Dr. Hrdlicka explains that this indicates that the exterior form of the skull is preserved. These ridges would not be in evidence if the lava cast had formed within the skull, as the interior of a skull is not so ridged. Presumably mineral material has either replaced the bones themselves, leaving a petrified skull, or the bones have dissolved leaving a cast around them.

Science News-Letter, October 16, 1926

BIOLOGY—MEDICINE

WILLIAM WILLIAMS KEEN

Dean of American Surgeons

Civil war army surgeon, teacher for many years, evolutionist, and member of the Medical Corps in the Great War—these are some of the claims to fame of Dr. W. W. Keen, of Philadelphia.

Dr. Keen was born in Philadelphia on the nineteenth of January, 1837. He graduated from Brown University and the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, both of which institutions have been among a number to confer upon him honorary degrees. Though he has written numerous medical books, two of his works are of very general interest. One, "Animal Experimentation and Medical Progress," tells of the advances in medical science made possible by experiments on living animals. His most recent book, "I Believe in God and Evolution," is the other. This book originated in a commencement address at Crozer Theological Seminary (Baptist) of which he has been a trustee for fifty-five years.

His ideas on evolution are summarized in the following words from the book:

"Do I believe in Evolution? Most assuredly. And for the very best of reasons, viz: that I see the evidence of it all around me every day. Even in my own lifetime I have seen a wonderful evolution in vegetables, in fruit, in flowers, in pigeons and chickens, in the dog, the cow and the horse. If so great progress is possible in the few decades of one human life, what is not possible in thousands and even millions of years, for the earth undoubtedly has existed for many millions of years."

Science News-Letter, October 16, 1926

A gigantic New York skyscraper now being built is to have three acres of glass windows.

Science News-Letter, October 16, 1926

EDUCATION

Arranging Your Mind

By Edwin E. Slosson

Interest is largely dependent on association. Children have the greatest general acquisitiveness. They are interested in everything. But as we grow older and realize that no man can swallow the universe, we grow particular with our mental food. We pick and choose. A child's mind is like a ball covered with glue; roll it around and it will pick up everything that it touches. A man's mind is like a magnet that will pick out a certain metal from anything that may be mixed with it. He is deaf to all sounds outside a certain range unless they are very loud. His mind is trained to a certain line of thought and all ideas on his subject that come his way are picked up.

Start your mind working in a certain direction and see how facts will flock to you from all sides. How often do we hear the exclamation "Why here is an article on the very subject we were talking about, how queer!" It is merely because you have your eyes open.

That is the explanation of the broadening effect of a college education. It is not so much the amount of information a man gets in the four years but that being required to study in many different lines gives him points of interest and each of these attracts information through the rest of his life. He is like a farmhouse where an enterprising lightning rod agent has got in his work. He bristles with points that draw electricity from every passing cloud. And the points are all connected and grounded in deep earth.

Another thing, too, a well educated man has a more symmetrical mind. Certain important ideas, that the experience of the ages has shown to be best fitted for "foundation," have been implanted deep in his plastic mind and he builds on these and he is less likely to get lopsided and cranky (using this word in its nautical sense, not slang). The library of his information is systematically arranged and this is better than putting the books in by chance. It is more important that we should be able to put our hands on any book when wanted than that we should have a large library. Or to put it psychologically, it is better to have a good recollection than a large memory.

We can recall things best when they are arranged according to the logical laws of association. We remember best what made the most impression on our minds, what we were

(*Just turn the page*)