

## Viking Ships to Valhalla

A royal pleasure ship, last resting place of Queen Aasa, a ruler of the Vikings, is one of the most remarkable finds ever made in old graves. At least, this is the verdict of Sophie Gram, who in a recent issue of the journal of the Archæological Society of Washington, *Art and Archæology*, describes the splendor with which this queen of about 800 A.D. was prepared for her "voyage" to meet the Norse gods.

It was a natural idea to the Vikings that their last journey would take them over the sea, Miss Gram explains. A king or queen was buried not only with necessities for a long voyage, but with the luxuries which royalty, even among the hardy Norsemen, has always commanded. A ship, carriage, and four sleighs, all beautifully carved, went into the queen's burial mound to assure her of fitting transportation wherever her death voyage might take her.

"The interment of Queen Aasa was attended by great splendor," she says. "Lavish offerings, the rumors of which spread far abroad, were made at the grave. In her honor fifteen horses, four dogs, and one ox were sacrificed. On board the vessel the queen was surrounded by a luxury which is astounding for those days. In the grave was placed her bed with down pillows and feather quilts. The walls of the burial chamber were covered with costly rugs from foreign countries, as well as with hangings, woven by the queen herself and her maidens, and dyed with vegetable colors. She had with her her lamps, sewing equipment and all imaginable personal things, such as clothes and linen, kitchen utensils, chests with jewelry, also vegetables and grain. For entertainment there were chessboards, decanters with wine, walnuts, and wild apples.

"Her closest bond-woman went with her to death. She had to give up her life in order that the queen should have company on the way to Valhalla. Perhaps she was killed according to the sacrificial ceremonies before being taken on board. But she may have gone into the grave to sit down beside her dead mistress, guarding her last sleep until her own life slowly ebbed out."

The finding of this ship refutes the idea that the people from Viken were semi-barbarous.

The Oseburg ship, as Queen Aasa's craft is called, has been carefully restored and is now in the historical museum at Oslo.

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## Sunlight Destroys Vitamins

If the cod-liver oil bottle is allowed to stand too long on the bathroom window sill in the sunshine it is not nearly so worth while to make the baby swallow his daily dose. It will have lost its famous properties to make the young idea "grow big and strong," the inducement held out to down the oil that is an unappreciated part of the bill of fare of most present day youngsters.

Dr. P. R. Peacock of the Middlesex Hospital, London, has discovered that the growth-promoting vitamin A is destroyed by prolonged exposure to sunlight or to irradiation by ultra-violet light. He was led to make this discovery on finding that a bottle of cod-liver oil that had remained on his work bench several months had lost its fluorescent properties when exposed to ultra-violet light.

Chemical tests failed to show the presence of vitamin A but the fluorescence returned when the bottle was kept in the dark, though the chemical tests for the vitamin continued negative. The "deluminated" oil, as Dr. Peacock calls it, was likewise proved lacking in growth-promoting powers when fed experimentally to rats.

Though the deluminated oil has no vitamin A, vitamin D, which prevents rickets, is quite unaffected by the action of ultra-violet light or sunlight.

A similar discovery has been made in the United States by R. W. Titus, J. S. Hughes, W. R. Henshaw, and J. B. Fitch of the Kansas State Agricultural College. They have found that ultra-violet light also destroys vitamin A in cow's milk.

This demonstrated instability of the growth-inducing vitamin, declares Dr. Peacock, makes it very desirable to pay careful attention to the way in which foods which owe their value to its presence are stored.

Science News-Letter, October 16, 1926

## Science Service, Limited

The world has been full of a number of things

That never were known until lately;  
Since science found radium, radio,  
wings,

She runs where she once walked  
sedately.

She burrows and flies, she broadcasts  
and pries,

But hiding the sum of her knowl-  
edge,

How great she has grown she prefers  
to have known

Just to certain professors in college.

Then, thanks to the scout who has  
ferreted out

The latest and best of her treasures,  
Transferring 'em all to words snappy  
and small,

From sesquipedalian measures.

The best and the last from that science  
field vast,

He serves as a food predigested;  
The gist and the meat for the man on  
the street,

Of savants from Einstein to Brea-  
sted.

Psychology slants and cocktails for  
plants,

The bee's knees, the kitten's paja-  
mas;

It's science, but gee! Any flapper  
can see,

As well as your savants or lamas.

—Keith Preston in  
*Chicago Daily News.*

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Because people in Hawaii eat imported vegetables in preference to home grown varieties, the Hawaiian Agricultural Experiment Station has published a list of 62 Hawaiian vegetables with notes on their food value and directions for cooking and serving them.

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## STUDY HELPS FOR SCIENCE CLASSES

(These articles will be found to be especially useful in class work.)

### GENERAL SCIENCE

Ancient Carthage is Scene of Real Estate Boom, p. 33. Arranging Your Mind, p. 35. Vegetation on Mars, p. 37. Viking Ships to Valhalla, p. 41. Ancient Arab Customs, p. 43. Football in Good Old Days, p. 43. Anniversaries of Science, p. 47. Memory Rimes, p. 47. Articles marked with \* in classifications below.

### HYGIENE

Future Men and Heredity, p. 37. Sunlight Destroys Vitamins, p. 41. After 500 Years, p. 43.

### CHEMISTRY

Sugar from Wood,\* p. 37.

### BIOLOGY

First Details on Java Skull,\* p. 35. Dean of American Surgeons,\* p. 35. Future Men and Heredity, p. 37. Sunlight Destroys Vitamins, p. 41. Nature Ramblings,\* p. 43.

### PHYSICS

Wells Bewildered,\* p. 45. Test Airplane Wing Cloth, p. 45. An Almost Human Clock, p. 47.

(This will fit on a 3 x 5 card.)

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