

Early Egyptian doctors were also priests.

The horse is the only living one-toed animal.

Paper milk bottles are used by a London dairy.

Bedouins of Arabia believe in a four-cornered earth.

Death Valley, California, has 350 cloudless days in a year.

Artificial silk was first made commercially about 35 years ago.

Tarantulas make themselves useful by eating up large cockroaches.

An American steamer is the first ship to try burning pulverized coal.

An attempt is being made to introduce salmon into the streams of Hawaii.

Body tissues of a human being contain an infinitesimal quantity of nickel.

One-day shopping excursions from London to Paris by air are soon to be started.

The most expensive method of mummifying used by the Egyptians cost about \$2,500.

Four-fifths of America's crude rubber imports last year came from British possessions.

Folding wings are made for some large airplanes so that they can be stored in smaller space.

If 23 alphabet letters were used in making every conceivable word in every language, the number of words would exceed 25 with 21 ciphers after it.

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## Apes—Or Something Else?

(Continued from page 295)

still lower ancestral animal group and evolved side by side, but in diverging lines, through many millions of years. Since 1916 he has accepted, however, Dr. Osborn's theory that beings entitled to be called human have existed since Pliocene times, a million years ago, much longer than most paleontologists have been prepared to admit.

Dr. Gregory was led to doubt the hypothesis of the separate development of man and apes from the beginning by a comparative study of teeth and bones. Long before the time when this separate development is supposed to have started, five or six million years ago, another separate development was beginning among the four-footed mammals, which has resulted in such exceedingly unlike animals as the tapir and the horse. More divergence, Dr. Gregory said, had taken place between the horse and tapir than between the ape and man. And he cited many minute details in which man still resembles the apes, and in which the bones, jaws and teeth of primitive men even more closely resemble the bones of extinct species of apes. He admitted that it would be much more agreeable to human self-esteem to adopt an opposite doctrine, and likened himself to the slave at the ancient royal banquet, whose unpleasant and probably risky job it was to whisper into the king's ear: "Remember that thou also art but mortal."

Science News-Letter, May 7, 1927

### EVOLUTION

## Was First Man an American?

Has Nebraska produced the most ancient evidence of the existence of man yet known to science?

This question is raised by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History, in a report to the American Philosophical Society in which he reveals that investigations conducted by him in collaboration with Albert Thomson, of the American Museum staff, have unearthed fossil bone implements in geologic strata that are considered some 4,000,000 years old, an age known to geologists as Pliocene.

Since past opinion has been that the most ancient evidences of man were to be found in the Old World, and since claims of the discovery of man in America antedating the Indians, some 25,000 years ago, have been received heretofore with skepti-

cism, the announcement of Dr. Osborn, one of the world's leading authorities on the antiquity and evolution of man, will create great scientific interest.

Over 300 implements of forty different types have been discovered. They are made of the bones of extinct animals that lived in Pliocene times, but time has caused them to be turned into stone. These are the first completely fossilized bones to be discovered, Dr. Osborn stated. Among the animals whose bones are represented in the collection are extinct horses, camels, deer, elephants and mastodons.

The exact locality in which the discovery was made has not yet been announced by Dr. Osborn with further detail than to state that it is in western Nebraska. Dr. Osborn explained that he desired to protect the site from curiosity seekers who might interfere with the scientific investigations. The first of these artifacts were discovered about two years ago, and since that time tractors and other modern machinery have been used in excavating the area. Two localities about 75 feet apart have produced most of the implements.

The fossilized implements are described by Dr. Osborn as of undoubted human origin and of symmetrical shape. Among them are skin dressers for cleaning animal hides, pointed awl-like implements evidently used in sewing, neck ornaments made of strung bones, and a kind of comb that seems to be a tattooing implement. Eighteen of the types of tools have been matched with counterparts found in the ruins of cliff dwellers of the arid regions of the Southwest, and one type can be nearly duplicated by a much more recent implement from the shell heaps of eastern America. Dr. Osborn declared that the fossilized bone specimens must be studied by others before it will be safe to definitely assign them a human origin. But unlike the implements of Europe, which are usually weapons and hunting tools, the Nebraska artifacts are nearly wholly related to the peaceful arts.

Dr. Osborn announced that further investigations are to be carried on this summer.

Science News-Letter, May 7, 1927

Olive lionheaded goldfish is a recent import to America from the Orient.

Tests show that an aviator can talk with the ground by special apparatus from a height of a mile.

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