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SCIENCE SERVICE
21st and B Sts.
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Quakes and Flood

(Continued from page 321)

years," said Commander Heck, "but for just how many years we cannot say. However there is no more reason for believing that one will again occur in the same region than at any other time in recent years. There have been minor shocks on the average of once a year in the neighborhood, so there is no reason to believe that the recent shocks have had anything to do with the flood. It has been suggested that a suddenly increased barometric pressure, by the greater weight of the air on a large land area, might be the straw to break the camel's back, and by acting as a trigger, might set off a quake all ready to occur.

"A large mass of water over an extended territory might have a similar effect but as we have no reason to believe that the flooded area is above a place of potential earthquake danger, the flood refugees need not fear that an earthquake will add to their troubles."

A similar opinion was expressed by Dr. Humphreys, who pointed out that there was no way of telling whether the greater weight of the water would lessen or increase the strain. Also, he said, tornadoes are caused by conditions quite unrelated to those that result in the floods, and there is no especially great danger of these twisters in the inundated country.

Science News-Letter, May 21, 1927

EVOLUTION—CORRECTION

Was First Man an American?

Under the above head in SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER, XI, 296, May 7, 1927, describing the discovery of fossilized implements in Nebraska by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History, it was stated that the implements are "described by Dr. Osborn as of undoubted human origin." To more accurately convey Dr. Osborn's evaluation of the find, the implements should be described as of "apparent or possible human origin." The original article further stated that: "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."

Science News-Letter, May 21, 1927

A six-story playground is to be constructed in downtown New York.

Why automobile engines are hard to start in cold weather is being studied by government scientists.

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