

ARCHAEOLOGY

War God Temple Discovered

By digging down into earth and sand where a few lonely columns near Thebes indicated an ancient ruin, French scientists have uncovered fragments of a remarkable Egyptian temple and have revealed the existence of a hitherto unknown Egyptian King.

Details of these excavations at Madamud, under the auspices of the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology, show that below the columns of a comparatively recent temple, of the Greco-Roman period, lie buried ruins of an older temple dating back to the twelfth dynasty, about 2200 B. C. From that time on to the Roman days the temple was dedicated to the war god Montou, who must have played a powerful role in the religion of this region. Statues of the war god and his companion goddess, Ra Tooui, have been found recently at the site.

In the course of digging, a sacred lake was discovered near the temple. Only five such lakes have previously been known, and great interest attaches to the discovery, since it is hoped that the bed of the lake can be searched for art treasures. It is believed that in times of grave danger, the priests would cast the most sacred temple possessions into these lakes to save them from vandals or political enemies.

Science News-Letter, October 15, 1927

EDUCATION

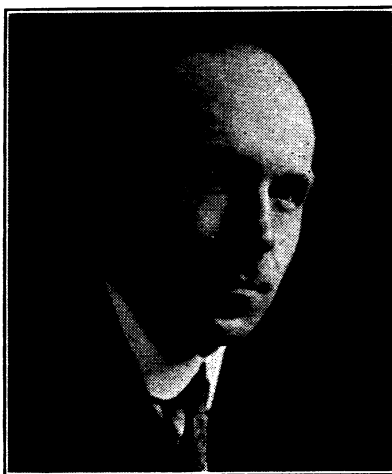
Art for Adults

Quotation from **EDUCATION FOR ADULTS AND OTHER ESSAYS**—Frederick Paul Keppel—Columbia University Press.

Then there is the question of the fine arts. We have the best opportunities in the world to hear music. More important architectural monuments are being erected here today than perhaps in all other countries combined. We are rapidly becoming the custodians, public and private, of much of the world's treasure in painting and sculpture. And yet it is only beginning to occur to us that one way for us as a people to get the solace and the delight which comes from an appreciation of beauty is to learn something about the different arts. I don't mean strings of names and dates to be memorized, but something very different. Here is a wonderful opportunity for an adult education that is re-creative. The current interest in the non-commercial drama touches alike recreation, the arts, the adult education, and is one of the most encouraging signs of the times.

Science News-Letter, October 15, 1927

GENETICS



HERMANN JOSEPH MULLER

Manipulator of Genes

Dr. Muller, whose work on the manipulation of genes by means of heavy doses of X-rays is discussed elsewhere in this issue of the *SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER*, is professor of zoology at the University of Texas. Although a Westerner by adoption, he is a New Yorker by birth and education. He was born on that most densely populated island in the world in 1890, and twenty years later received his bachelor's degree from the University of Columbia. The master's degree followed in 1911, at the same institution, and the doctorate in 1916.

His migration to Texas preceded the finishing of his graduate work. He first taught at Rice Institute, and at the time of the war was in charge of the department of biology there. There followed a two-year interim at Columbia, but in 1920 Dr. Muller returned to Texas, this time to his present position at Austin.

His interest in genetics dates back to his first graduate days, and he has worked almost wholly on the same material, *Drosophila*. He has devoted himself especially to the phenomena of crossing-over and to the study of mutation rates. He collaborated with his noted teacher, Thomas Hunt Morgan, in the production of "The Mechanism of Mendelian Heredity." This combination of interest in the behavior of chromosomes and in the statistical end of genetics has come to a natural climax in his present researches.

Science News-Letter, October 15, 1927

If young diamondback terrapin are fed regularly and kept in a warm enclosure, they produce eggs a year earlier than similar terrapin that are allowed to hibernate.

PSYCHOLOGY

Movies Bore Animals

Cats and dogs do not get much "kick" out of movies. During recent tests made by Dr. Victor Mendel, of Berlin, animals and birds showed a rather surprising lack of response to moving pictures. The pictures were especially selected for each animal and animal group, and the experiments were made in an exhibition room especially adapted to the purpose.

The response of dogs was practically nil. Neither St. Bernard, setter, spaniel, poodle nor collie gave the slightest attention to the pictures. Only a little mongrel of doubtful origin evinced a momentary interest by sniffing at the human figures on the screen. The experiments with cats were much more favorable. Of five subjects three responded actively, showing fight upon the appearance of a big dog on the screen.

Experiments with birds were rather negative. Geese and ducks, chickens and pigeons paid some attention, while owls showed great interest. Small birds and barnyard fowl showed anxiety when a hawk appeared in their line of vision. A squirrel displayed interest when a weasel made its appearance on the screen but reptiles and fish were, as might have been expected, quite indifferent.

Science News-Letter, October 15, 1927

ARCHAEOLOGY

Stone Artillery Ammunition

"Cannon-balls" of stone, dating back to a time before there were any cannon to propel them, have been excavated from the ruins of an ancient arsenal in the citadel of the old Greek city of Pergamon in Asia Minor. The exploration was conducted by a party of German scientists under the leadership of Dr. Theodor Wiegand, who has just reported his findings in Berlin.

Though these balls were never fired from cannon, they were artillery ammunition nevertheless. In the third century B. C., when they were carved, artillery consisted of huge crossbows or long wooden arms swung on counterweights, which could send stones and heavy darts whizzing through the air for considerable distances.

About 900 of these stone "cannon-balls" were found; they range in caliber between 5 and 16 inches, and in weight between 13 and 172 pounds.

Science News-Letter, October 15, 1927