

Ur Yields Old Gods and Royal Tombs

Archaeology

The body of a baby girl, adorned with a little gold headdress almost exactly like that worn by Queen Shub-ad of Ur, is one of the new discoveries in the royal graves at Ur of the Chaldees, according to a report just received from C. Leonard Woolley, director of the joint expedition of the University of Pennsylvania Museum and the British Museum.

This 5,000-year-old grave, which Mr. Woolley suggests might be called the grave of the baby princess, contained also a set of miniature silver dishes, including a tumbler and bowls. The royal headdress, which attracted much attention last season when discovered with the remains of the Queen, is a delicate and elaborate structure of gold ribbon, gold leaves, and flowers with pointed petals.

After two months' excavation at the ancient cemetery this season, remarkable finds have already been made, and the investigations have just reached the deep-buried layer of earth where, according to last year's experience, the most important tombs should lie.

The director reports that he is now working at a sector of the cemetery hitherto untouched by archaeologists, and although more than 200 graves have already been found there, only a few places have been probed to the depth at which royal tombs may be expected.

Noiseless Airplanes—Cont.
a constant whistle will be present. This is being reduced by cutting down the number of exposed wires, supports and other equipment attached to the fuselage.

When early slumbers are broken or the peace of an evening shattered, even aviation enthusiasts have visions of a terrible future when the whole heavens will pulsate to the whirling roar of many motored planes.

Nevertheless, the time is almost at hand when airplane engines will be as quiet as automobile power plants, and airplane passengers can expect to ride in enclosed cabins as quiet and comfortable as railroad cars within a year or two. For the man on the ground, aviation engineering does not promise the complete elimination but only the reduction of the present noise. (*Turn to next page*)



COPPER STATUE, representing a human face, possibly the face of a god, with animal horns, found in the latest excavations at Ur

From discoveries that have been made, the expedition staff has formed the theory that a king's burial in Ur would be in a subterranean building at the bottom of a deep vertical shaft. After the king was buried there and his slaughtered attendants were laid with him, the shaft would be filled in at intervals with votive offerings up to a certain point. There a chamber would be constructed to receive the last offerings and over this more earth, and finally, possibly as a superstructure, there would be a funerary chapel.

"Our Father"—65 Per Cent

Education

Tennessee college students preparing to be teachers are well acquainted with the words of the Lord's Prayer, but they understand only about two-thirds of this famous classic which they will repeat daily in their schoolrooms. This is shown by an educational experiment with 540 students, conducted by Lester R. Wheeler, of the East Tennessee State Teachers College, and reported to *School and Society*.

Ninety-six per cent. of the future school teachers wrote the words of the Lord's Prayer from memory without leaving out a word. When asked to explain the fifteen different thought units, the average student gave acceptable interpretations of only 65 per cent. of the ideas. Some of the units were found to be much easier to understand than (*Turn to next page*)

The tomb of a woman, wearing a golden headdress and other jewelry, has been discovered, the circumstances indicating elaborate burial rites. Four men-servants or soldiers and a serving maid were buried with this lady of Ur. Outside the stone blocking of the door were set clay pots of food and the carcass of a sheep. In the filling-in of the shaft leading down to the tomb, the excavators found tier above tier of food vessels and meat offerings and human skeletons.

"Another most interesting discovery was that of a harp," Mr. Woolley wrote. "The woodwork of the instrument had decayed and disappeared, but luckily a workman noticed the holes which it had left in the soil, and by filling these with plaster of paris we obtained a complete cast of the harp's body, to which was attached the bull's head of copper inlaid with lapis lazuli. The most astonishing thing was the fact that when the earth was carefully cut away to expose the cast there were found surviving as lines of white fibrous powder the ten cat-gut strings of the harp.

"Prominent among our other finds are a copper statue-head, possibly of a god, having a human face and the horns and ears of a bull, and a painted clay pot, which is the first complete one of its kind found at Ur."

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Good as Neon Lights

Physics

Red neon lights, suggested as beacons for airports, are not any better able to penetrate fog, as its advocates have claimed, than ordinary incandescent lamps, equipped with colored screens. This was announced by Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, of the U. S. Bureau of Standards. Neon lights are familiar to everyone because they are used in the newest tubular advertising signs.

Tests carried out by Bureau of Standards scientists were made under actual field conditions. The neon lamp was compared with incandescent lamps so arranged that the color, size and shape of each lamp appeared identical to the aviator.

"The test showed that there is no real difference in the fog-penetrating quality of the light from the two sources," said Dr. (*Turn to next page*)