Elaborate Burial in Indiana Mound

An Indian mound containing burials of a most elaborate type has just been opened up at Winchester, Indiana, by F. M. Setzler, operating under the auspices of the Indiana Historical Bureau and the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D. C. The skeleton found beneath the earthwork must have belonged to a mighty chief, for the mound raised in his honor was 80 feet in diameter and eight feet high. It was surrounded by an earthwork enclosing 31 acres of land.

Near the center of the mound was a large area containing raw ochre and partly decomposed bark. In the center of this area was a pit, where offerings of material comfort for the spirit of the departed had evidently been made. There were numerous cremated bird bones, two ceremonial spear points, and two gorgets or throat ornaments, one of slate and the other of sandstone.

Three feet beneath the sacrificial pit in the bark and ochre layer lay the bones of the departed warrior, a man of middle age when he died. Along with the skeleton was an extra skull, badly crushed. Mr. Setzler conjectures that this was possibly added for some ceremonial reason. The bones rested on bark, and had apparently been bark-covered when interred. At the east end of the burial there were six post holes in the ground, indications possibly of a wooden structure since fallen into decay.

To the west of the burial is a stone wall, which has not yet been opened. Mr. Setzler believes that this may conceal more skeletons, which further digging will bring to light.

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The Universe Around Us

The Universe Around Us—Sir James Jeans — *Macmillan* ($4.50). This is an irresistible book; a book that will be ordered at first sight of its announcement by wide-awake librarians everywhere. There is no other book to compare with it except Eddington's "Nature of the Physical World" for giving to the general reader a comprehensible idea of the new conceptions of the cosmos developed within the last ten years. And these two books, Eddington and Jeans, are complementary rather than competitive, both being essential for a full view of the universe now revealed to our eyes.

We are in the midst of a revolution in fundamental principles as great as that brought about by Copernicus and Galileo three hundred years ago and bound to have as wide an influence over our ideas of theology, our theories of space and time and our opinion of man's position in the world and his future possibilities. At no period in human history have so many of our basal ideas required such rapid and radical reconstruction as in our own time. Astronomy and chemistry have joined forces. Space and time are becoming assimilated. The indestructible atom has been dissolved into a miniature solar system and this into an undefinable system of wave harmonics. One element has been transformed into another. We talk without hesitation about the continuous destruction and creation of matter. The human race has been given an expectation of life extending to a million million years in the future. Astronomers calculate temperatures of 5,800,000,000 degrees in the interior of stars and distances of 140,000,000 light years. According to Einstein a ray of light traveling in a straight line in any given direction would, unless interfered with, arrive at its starting point from the opposite side in 500,000 million years.

We could have no more authoritative a guide to the facts and speculations developed in recent years than Sir James Jeans, who has taken an active part in its progress. His book is as clear and comprehensive to the ordinary layman as any book can be which goes into the subject so thoroughly. Any difficulty of comprehension arises from the novelty of the ideas and the big figures involved. The author has eliminated all algebraic formulae from the text and only given us the final results of the mathematical processes by which the figures have been obtained. No one can read it or even read in it, without expanding his mind, although he may not be able to expand his imagination enough to comprehend the vastness of the new vision which science is now disclosing to us.—E. E. S.

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Nature Ramblings

By Frank Thone

Red Haws

Now that autumn is really here, boys who have not yet lost their rural birthright will find their mouths watering at the sight of a hawthorn tree loaded with its bright vermilion fruits, that look like miniature apples but have a mellow, musky flavor all their own. It is a taste that must be experienced and remembered, for it can not be described; and it is all the more tantalizing for being obtainable only in small nibbles, and at the risk of discovering at any moment a telltale bisected worm.

Why such toothsome little fruits as red haws should be so much sought after by worms is another riddle of a universe in which the good and the ill are much too closely intertwined for the comfort of simple minds. To be sure, a healthy boy gets around the matter by not regarding the worm as an ill, or at least as an insignificant ill when compared with the benefits of gnawing the wild fruit. But a reminiscent adult, attempting to find the fountain of youth in the heart of a haw and discovering only a maggot instead, is driven to philosophic pessimism.

Something ought to be done about the red haw. There are millions of men who will agree that it is one of the finest-flavored fruits that enriches our autumn woods, even though they may not have tasted one for forty years. But in spite of its high rating on the casual bill-of-fare of boys, it has never been given a real horticultural chance. Some years ago an exotic species, with fruit as big as small crabapples, was tried out in South Dakota, but the experimenter was interested in other fruits and did not push the red haw very hard. It really ought to be followed through.

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Among the varied uses to which airplanes are now put may be listed wolf hunting, sowing grass seed, and detecting city smoke violations