

New Institute for Eye Problems

A great step forward in the study and treatment in America of diseases of the eye is marked by the dedication of the Wilmer Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and Hospital. Before the establishment of this institute, such opportunities in our country were far behind those of European countries. Individual men specializing in the subject were doing splendid work at various places, but no one center existed.

The new institute was founded and built by contributions from former patients and friends of Dr. William Holland Wilmer, one of the country's leading eye specialists, who is the head of the institute which bears his name. The location of the institute

is of especial advantage because the means for caring for patients and the general medical facilities of a great university hospital are available.

The unusual equipment and construction of the institute is the result of much thought and study on the part of Dr. Wilmer who spent two years in Europe visiting various ophthalmological centers before the institute was built.

A special camera has been devised in the research department to record pictorially operations on the eye. This is of immense educational value. Only a very few persons can observe closely the details of a surgical operation with safety to the patient. This is particularly true of delicate operations

on the eye. The new camera will give future surgeons an opportunity for observation of every detail, which is a vital part of their training.

Over 50,000 persons in the United States today have defects of vision so great that they cannot engage in pursuits requiring vision. Many thousands more are seriously hampered in health, happiness and earning power by poor eyesight. For these people as individuals and for the communities in which they live, the Wilmer Institute has tremendous significance. Research now being carried on at it is concerned with glaucoma, cataract, the effects on the eye of aviation, and many other problems of vital importance to humanity.

Science News-Letter, October 19, 1929

Did Early Americans Hunt Sloth?—Continued

Colorado, Texas, flood waters exposed the bones of an extinct species of bison, and while large blocks of earth in which they were embedded were being removed for transportation to the museum, three arrowheads, quite unlike those in any known collections, were found beneath a nearly complete skeleton.

At Folsom, N. M., fossil bones were discovered at the extraordinary altitude of 7,000 feet, and among the fossil bones were found two arrowheads similar to the Colorado specimens. The bones were identified as those of three hitherto unknown species of bison and an ancient deer-like animal.

In a gravel pit at Frederick, Okla., there were three distinct layers of deposits, which yielded, besides bones of animals, two arrow-heads and seven stones believed to be metates, or primitive grinding implements. Eight feet above the point at which the uppermost of the stones occurred, there were found remains of the mammoth, including numerous teeth.

Dr. O. P. Hay, of the U. S. National Museum, visited the Frederick gravel pits and came back convinced that they offered real evidence for the contemporaneous existence on the American continent of some race of man and of animal species now extinct.

But the Southwest is not alone as a possible dwelling-place of prehistoric man in America. Florida of the

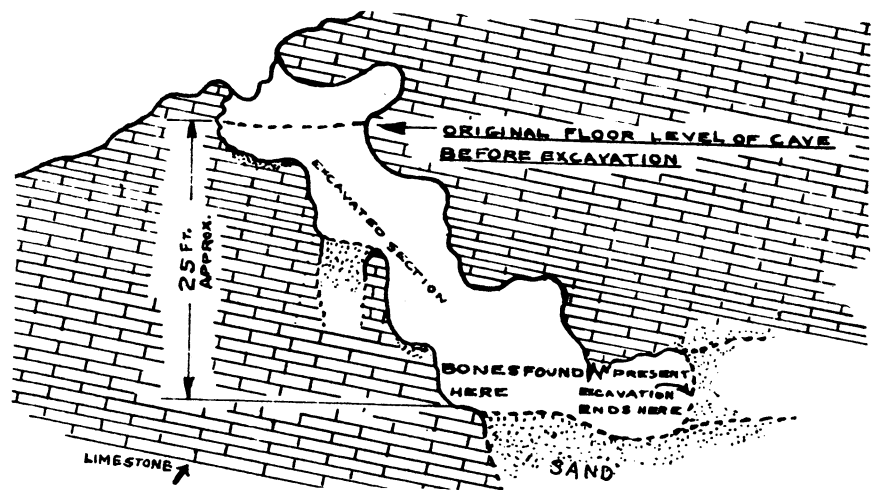


DIAGRAM OF CONKLING'S CAVERN, where human bones were found associated with remains of ground sloth and an extinct species of camel

Stone Age must have had its adherents as an ideal home, for since 1925 human relics have been coming to light from beneath its sandy soil. The most notable discovery was made in that year at Melbourne, where a joint expedition of the U. S. National Museum and Amherst College unearthed a crushed human skull from the same earth stratum that contained bones of mammoth, mastodon, and a huge scaled animal like a giant armadillo. Stone arrowheads, like corroborating documents, were found at the same level. Last spring C. P. Singleton, a Harvard zoologist, visited Melbourne and found a stone arrow or spear point directly underneath the bones of a mastodon, and at the same

time Dr. J. W. Gidley of the U. S. National Museum found a large stone implement of the type known as a turtle-back flaker.

To these and other evidences of the antiquity of man in America, the Conkling Cavern finds lend new weight and added authority. Though the cavern is closed to the general public during the activities of excavation, it is open to qualified scientists. And the really interesting part of it, the bones themselves, are on public display in the Los Angeles Museum, where both scientists and the laity can see for themselves the newest pages that have been opened in the book of the antiquity of man in America.

Science News-Letter, October 19, 1929