

Scientific Ape Colony

Zoology

The great apes, man's nearest relatives in the zoological world, will be reared under conditions as near to nature as possible on a new 200-acre laboratory station to be established by Yale University near Orange Park, Florida. The great scientific "ape farm" has been made possible by a gift of \$500,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Old-World medical, zoological and psychological students have for some years had an opportunity to study apes under favorable climatic conditions at the great French station at Kindia, in Africa; but this will represent the first chance for American scientists to work with these animals with adequate facilities and unhampered by the unnatural environment inevitable in zoological gardens in the northern United States.

A group of scientists from other institutions are cooperating in the plans for the new station. These include, in addition to the Yale representatives, Prof. Edwin G. Conklin of Princeton University; Dr. Milton J. Greenman, of the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia; Prof. Theobald Smith, of the Rockefeller Institute; Dr. Clark Wissler, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York; Dr. H. Gideon Wells, of the University of Chicago, and Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. This group will also serve as an advisory board for the general supervision of the program of the station, which it is planned to conduct in such a manner as to make it helpful to all university and scientific agencies working in the field of its interests.

Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929

Child Ills Increase

Medicine

A normal increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria throughout the country has been reported to the U. S. Public Health Service. At this season such an increase in the prevalence of these two diseases is expected, health officials explained.

So far the number of cases reported for each of these diseases is below the number reported for each at this time last year. State and city health departments in some parts of the country are making intensive efforts to have all children given inoculations of toxin-antitoxin to protect them from diphtheria.

Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929

Roman Statues Found in German Wall

Archæology

The foundation of a wall, consisting almost wholly of sculptured stones of the imperial Roman period, is the astonishing spoil of the spades of German archæologists working in the neighborhood of the town of Alzey in the Rhine country. Seeking for traces of a medieval church, they came upon the remains of a much older building, about sixteen yards square, which dates back to the days when the legions still occupied the parts of Germany that bordered upon Gaul.

The construction of the foundation was of most unusual type of masonry. The stones consisted largely of sculptured fragments of ancient pagan shrines and temples, including among others, nine altars, twenty-five pieces of pillars, four stones with inscriptions, six broken statues and reliefs, and six blocks with images of gods on all four sides. The structure suggests that it was the work of builders who not only disbelieved in the old gods but were actually hostile to them and wished to show their contempt for them; therefore possibly of early Christian date.

An examination of the sculptures and inscriptions shows that here, as elsewhere in southern Germany, the pre-Christian populace of mixed Germans, Romans and Gauls identified local gods with deities of the Roman pantheon. Apollo was linked with Grannus, a Celtic divinity, and the Roman Vulcan with the Celtic Cerunnos. Jupiter is shown with a nine-spoked wheel; and the wheel is not a Roman emblem but a German, being a figure of the sun. Dr. Friedrich Behn, curator of monuments at Mainz, who writes of the new discoveries in the German scientific journal *Forschungen und Fortschritte*, calls attention to the wheel which still figures in the coat-of-arms of his city. Mainz was once "Mogontiacum," the city of the sun-god Mogo. The wheel in the old sculpture identifies Jupiter of Rome with the local sun-god.

Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929

The discovery that rats are afflicted with a disease which appears to be the same as human leprosy may make it easier for scientists to make experimental studies of this dread disease.

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