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were wizards and masters of abomination."

Dr. Bingham finds sufficient evidence to warrant the belief that Machu Picchu was the place the missionary wished to see, but which remained unreported by white men until long after the last refugees died and left their homes to the swiftly growing jungle.

There are traces of strange events in the ruins and graves that represent the later period of Machu Picchu's occupation. The builders who put the old city in shape for its last set of residents were under pressure of speed, Dr. Bingham points out. Above the solid ancient foundations they laid hasty walls, and in order to provide enough houses they even built some on the old agricultural terraces.

The people whose coming was so swiftly prepared for were mostly women. In the burial caves which contained pottery of late Incan types most of the skeletons were those of women. There were a few children, a few bones pronounced those of effeminate men, of "inferior physical development." In graves within twenty-five miles of the mountain there were found the skeletons of fighters who were sturdy of build and who bore marks of battle and surgical operation. But the high citadel itself stood aloof from warfare. In all the hundred burial caves found on the sides of the mountain and on the neighboring peak of Huayna Picchu, there was no sign of broken or patched skulls, or of any husky soldiery to protect the women of the sacred city.

Women's Pottery

The pottery in the graves was all of the type associated with Incan women. There were ladles such as were used in drinking the favorite soups and stews of the highlands. There were sets of cooking jars and dishes and large pins of bronze which the women used to fasten their shoulder coverings.

The most wealthy woman of all, judging by her burial display, was a delicately formed little person, a "grande dame" of the Incan nobility. Her property placed in her burial cave included a set of clay dishes, a bronze mirror, bronze pins and spoons. With her lay the skeleton of her dog, an Incan collie.

One puzzling discovery was the burial of two men accompanied by women's possessions. Not only was

there a jug of the sort belonging to women in the grave of the older man, but there were also bronze necklace pendants, and some ornaments. The younger of the two men had an elaborately carved gray talc necklace ornament, a number of bone beads, and, strangest of all, some greenish fragments which appeared to be the remains of a bead made of fused green glass. These two burials were among the latest in the sacred city, for muscles of one thigh still adhered to the bone of the older man, and there were a few pieces of cloth and cord made from brown llama wool.

Who Were They?

There was something peculiar about these two, Dr. Bingham reasons: "Were they unwelcome visitors who came to the outskirts of the sacred city and were buried near the gate without being admitted to the society of the Virgins of the Sun? It seems to be an insoluble puzzle. And what about that bead of fused green glass? Where did the young man get that? It is probably of European origin. To be sure, it is only a little thing, but it would seem to say that the young man came here after the Spaniards had reached Cuzco. Were these men spies, sent by the Spaniards to try and locate the refuge of the Virgins of the Sun who had escaped from the holy city? Did they bring presents for the sacred women, necklaces and a jug and a precious glass bead, the like of which none of them had ever seen before? Who can tell?"

Science News-Letter, September 13, 1930

New Canning Aid

ACETALDEHYDE vapor may have a future use in the preservation of fruit because it kills the spores of molds without injuring the fruit itself.

This conclusion has been reached by two investigators who have worked on different sides of the question. R. G. Tompkins, of the Low Temperature Station, Cambridge, England, has shown that acetaldehyde vapor rapidly kills the spores of the molds and fungi which are likely to cause fruit spoilage.

In the same laboratory, S. A. Trout has recently found that healthy fruits can absorb a certain amount of acetaldehyde vapor without any harmful effects.

Botany

Science News-Letter, September 13, 1930