

gain control of their forelegs enough to start running away, but the two hind legs will drag or move very stiffly as if the goat were still quite stiff from the loin back although fully in control of the muscles of its front legs, head and neck.

"After having been thus frightened a goat cannot usually be frightened again no matter how great the excitement may

be, until it has had at least twenty or thirty minutes to rest."

Not all the goats fall over when frightened. Dr. Lush believes that it may be only those who have started to run and are caught off balance who topple over. Some become rooted to the spot in a standing position and remain "utterly motionless" for many seconds.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1930

PSYCHOLOGY

It's a Happy World, Think 88 Per Cent of the People

People Happy in One Activity Tend to be Happy in All, Studies Made by Prominent Psychologists Show

IT'S A HAPPY world, on the whole. Not many people want to be dramatic figures of tragedy in the eyes of their fellows. On the contrary, most of us humans like to rate ourselves as being happier than average.

This light on human nature has been cast by a new psychological study of happiness made by Dr. Randolph Sailer, of Yenching University in China. Dr. Sailer worked under the direction of Dr. Goodwin Watson of Teachers College, Columbia University, who has been analyzing happiness and happy people for several years.

In a questionnaire on their own happiness or lack of it, just 60 workers out of 500 said that the world is more bad than good, or that they were less happy than the average mortal. Not one of the 500 was a complete pessimist or a perfect optimist.

Poor health is definitely linked with unhappiness, according to this survey. It is not yet clear, however, whether illness and physical handicaps cause unhappiness, or whether the situation is sometimes reversed, with unhappiness and worry bringing on physical troubles.

Do you worry about the future? That is a trait that goes with unhappiness, it was found. Few happy people worry about what is going to happen next. Still, the happy person is not happy-go-lucky. Nearly all of the happiest group declared that life should be lived with a serious purpose.

"The happy worry less about the future, about money, sex, jobs, appearance, education or the lack of it," Dr. Watson explained. "They have less fear of failure, less restlessness, fewer fears.

Those who are happy in one field, let's say with their friends, tend also to be happy in health, in relation to parents, religion, love, vocation, and schooling. If a man appeared to believe that he was not well treated on the job, it was interesting to note that he believed that life had been unkind to him in many other ways."

Among other findings from the happiness survey are:

The state of a man's finances is no reliable gauge of his happiness. Some of the happiest and some of the most miserable men were found among the low-salaried group.

The "only child" is no more happy or unhappy than the child in a large family.

HEREDITY

Given Airplane, Ancestors of Lindbergh Would Have Flown

LINDBERGH'S ancestors probably had his capacity for aviation, but they had no opportunity to make use of it because the airplane had not been developed. The ability to fly depends on several factors, some of which are inherited and some the result of surroundings.

This interesting statement was made by Dr. Albert F. Blakeslee, of the Department of Genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington, in a radio talk presented over the Columbia Broadcasting

System under the auspices of Science Service.

"This last summer," Dr. Blakeslee said, "a newspaper reporter asked me to predict the future of the Lindbergh baby from the standpoint of its inheritance. The reporter seemed to think a student of heredity ought to be able to tell what a child will amount to if he knows what its parents have accomplished. I declined, however, to be a fortune teller and give a detailed horoscope of the infant. No doubt I was

Smokers as a group are no more or less happy than non-smokers.

Religion plays a role in maintaining happiness.

An even temperament is likely to be a happy one.

And married men are happier than bachelors.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1930

PALEONTOLOGY

Seek to Prove That Americans Came From Asia

A FIVE-YEAR search for definite evidence of the first American immigrants, who are thought by anthropologists to have come to this continent in prehistoric times from Asia, was described in a report to the American Philosophical Society by Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, curator of the division of physical anthropology of the U. S. National Museum.

Under Dr. Hrdlicka's direction, the National Museum has been carrying on intensive anthropological and archaeological work in Alaska since 1926. The remaining fullblood Alaskan people, both Eskimo and the rapidly vanishing Indian, have been studied, and old sites have been examined for traces of their prehistoric predecessors.

In these latter investigations lay a surprise for the archaeologists; for there was discovered a wholly unexpected rich and highly artistic Eskimo culture, represented mainly in implements of walrus ivory which have since become fossilized. This culture antedates the well known recent Eskimo culture.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1930

expected to say that the child will become a great flier like his father.

"If the child should spend many of his future hours in the air, as he doubtless will, would this be chiefly because he has inherited his father's capacity to learn aviation or chiefly because he is brought up in aviation surroundings? In other words would flying in his case be due to heredity or to environment? As a matter of fact it would probably be due to both. The capacity to learn to co-ordinate body and mind necessary to one who guides an airplane is undoubtedly inherited. The flyer Lindbergh inherited such capacity from his ancestors although his ancestors never had an opportunity to show this capacity in actual flying. They lacked an aviation environment."

"We start life," Dr. Blakeslee explained, "like a photographic plate which has been exposed. There is a potential image ready for development, which corresponds to the heredity. Chemical solutions in the hands of the photographer furnish an environment which reveals the lines already impressed upon the negative. Differences in this environment brought about by changes in the manner of developing the negatives may alter the appearance of the finished picture. And yet the development can bring nothing new into the picture. Its outlines were foreordained at the moment the sensitized plate was exposed in the camera. After we are born, we cannot change our heredity, though we can change our environment."

Science News Letter, November 15, 1930

HISTORY

Names of Days Unchanged Since Romans Ruled Rhine

SUNDAY was Sunday when the Romans ruled the Rhine, Monday was Monday, and the rest of the days of the week had the same names they have now. This is indicated by an old pottery calendar found in the ancient temple district at Trier by Dr. Siegfried Loeschke of the Provincial Museum.

The days of the week were indicated by figures of the gods whose names they bear: Sunday by a head with a halo of rays, Monday by a head crowned with a horned moon, and so on. Beneath each figure was a little hole, in which a peg could be placed. Each day the peg was moved over one hole, and so the householder could keep track of what day it was.

The calendar is incomplete, for the two last gods are broken off.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1930



"FLOWERS OF STONE" BENEATH THE MAYA CIVILIZATION

In Yucatan. When archaeologists have unfolded the story of the surface, miles of caverns, which contain traces of human occupancy and have mysterious inscriptions on their walls, will remain for them to explore.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Gorgeous Caves of Loltún Invite Further Exploration in Yucatan

By **DON LUIS ROSADO VEGA,**
Director, Museo Arqueologica e Historico de Yucatan

MERIDA, Yucatan.—When all the pyramids, temples and monuments left by the grand civilizations of the ancient Maya shall have been uncovered and restored to some shadow of their splendor, when archaeologists shall have read as much of their story as time has left legible, there will still be mystery and a challenge to science in the caves of Loltún.

The coral-limestone soil of Yucatan is riddled with caverns, most of which have never been explored. They descend into the bowels of the earth for hundreds of feet and ramify for miles, sometimes opening into vast, cathedral-like naves, sometimes contracting into cramped holes through which it is difficult and even perilous to crawl. They are often rich with gorgeous stalactites and stalagmites: the word "Loltún" means "flowers of stone."

In these vast caverns one frequently comes upon traces of human occupancy. Traced on the walls are inscriptions—

pictures and hieroglyphs resembling the art of the Maya, which have thus far defied the guesses of archaeologists. No one has been able to demonstrate their date, though it is conjectured from the type of workmanship that they are very early. A few of them are sharp and distinct, but most have eroded to indistinctness or have had their outlines blurred by stalactitic deposits.

It is unlikely that these caverns were ever used for human habitation. More probably they were resorted to for religious purposes. The inscriptions would indicate that, for picture-writing among all primitive peoples is almost invariably a secret of the priestly caste.

Their use as burial places has been suggested, but the evidence is uncertain. One early explorer claimed to have found a swathed mummy in one of them, but this has not been confirmed.

All the work thus far done in the Loltún caverns has been of the barest preliminary character. The unriddling of their mystery is reserved for a future archaeological generation.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1930