

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."

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HISTORY

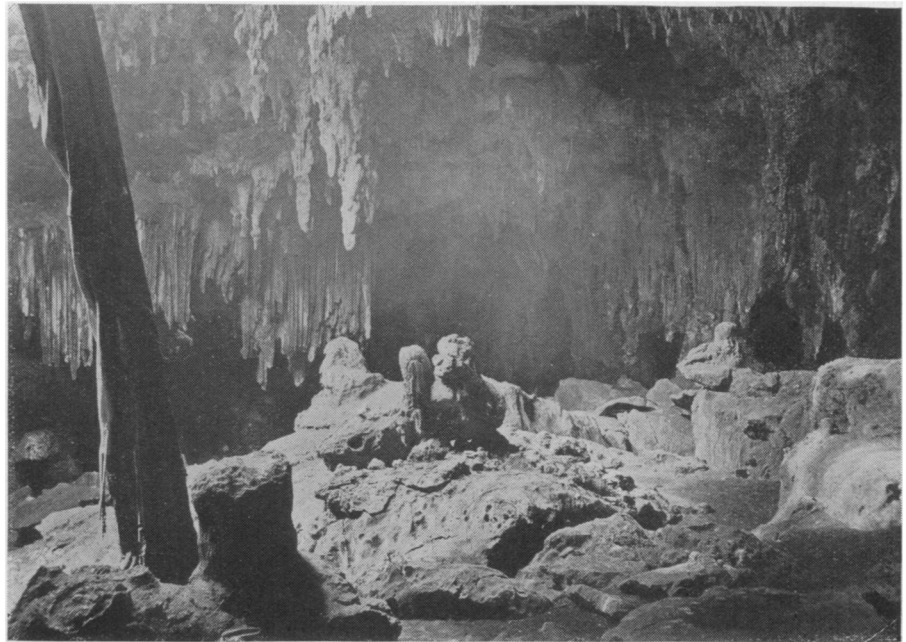
Names of Days Unchanged Since Romans Ruled Rhine

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.

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"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.

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