

worm, active on both Atlantic and Pacific seaboard.

The huge apple crop was made the objective of a mass attack of apple leafhoppers, all the way from New England south to Virginia and west to Illinois and Kentucky. These insects, in addition to specking the fruit, were a very decided nuisance to the pickers. Two troublesome invaders of shade trees were the birch skeletonizer and the boxelder bug. The latter is reported as very prevalent in both eastern seaboard and far western states.

Among the grain insects, the chinch bug is reported as going into hibernation in distinctly alarming numbers, in the east central states. Corn earworm persisted extremely late in the northern

grain area. It not only damaged late sweet corn but also ate the mature field corn and did very considerable damage by entering greenhouses, where the larvae attacked practically all forcing plants.

One grain pest, however, was at least partially circumvented. In the eastern states, there was an unusually heavy emergence of the Hessian fly in September. In most places, this was too early to infest wheat sown after the fly-free date. The insects, having no thick-growing grain fields to which they could resort, turned to the scanty scatterings of volunteer wheat, and infested the stalks heavily.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1931

MEDICINE

Disease-Bearing Mosquitoes Able to Ride on Airplanes

PLANES from the tropics will probably carry on their sides, along with the fire extinguishers, spray guns for killing insects. This innovation is to be expected as a result of studies of mosquito transportation by airplanes, announced by the U. S. Public Health Service.

Because a certain type of mosquito carries the virus of yellow fever, which still occurs in parts of South America, the Public Health Service investigated the possibility of these insects getting a free plane ride into the United States and bringing the disease with them.

Certain types of airplanes do carry mosquitoes, Dr. T. H. D. Griffiths and J. J. Griffiths of the U. S. Public Health Service found. These investigators put stained mosquitoes on planes leaving San Juan, Porto Rico, and recovered a certain number when the plane reached Miami, 1,250 miles away, that same day.

"With conditions at airports such as would permit of many mosquitoes getting aboard, it might be expected that approximately one-fifth of the original number would be transported for a long distance—at least 1,250 miles—in one day with repeated landing and opening of doors, hatches and windows, and refueling, unloading and loading taking place," they reported.

Under normal average conditions about airports, heavy infestation of air-

planes would not be likely, but even one infected or infective mosquito of the yellow fever type might be the means of starting an epidemic.

However, considering the small number carried by aircraft and the facility with which planes may be freed from mosquitoes, they concluded that while the danger exists, airplanes can be efficiently treated so as to destroy mosquitoes and thus to avoid retardation of air traffic progress.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1931

ARCHAEOLOGY

Stone Age Men Made Tools of Rock Crystal

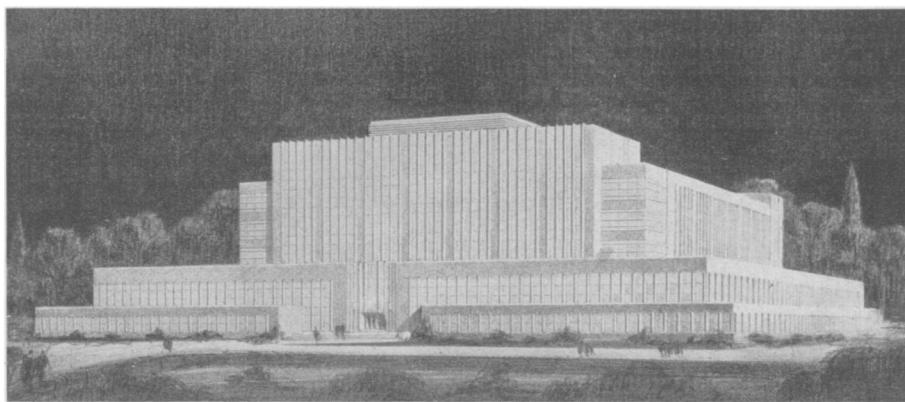
ROCK CRYSTAL, now used as a semi-precious stone, took the place of high-grade steel with the men of the Old Stone Age. They did not make many of their tools and weapons of it, but they apparently valued it and used it when they could.

At the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences at New Haven, Conn., Prof. George Grant MacCurdy of the Peabody Museum, Yale University, told of seven rock-crystal tools all found at the same level in one cave in France, by the expedition of the American School of Prehistoric Research. The tools were of the type known as Mousterian, used by Neanderthal man at one stage of his development.

The rock-crystal tools found by Prof. MacCurdy's associates are among the oldest of their kind, for Neanderthal man was the earliest race to make implements from this material. Though there are older Stone Age tools in plenty, their makers, whoever they were, were not masters of the art of working the hard and obdurate rock crystal, and contented themselves with flint and other "plain" stones.

Early California Mammals

That fossils of very early mammals have been found in California, extending the knowledge scientists have gained of the appearance and development of life on this planet, was reported to the



HOME FOR RESEARCH

A multitude of scientific researches on the many different kinds of wood will be housed in this unique building. Contained there also will be a permanent exhibition of the beauty of hardwoods used in interior finishing. The building is the new U. S. Forests Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., drawn by the architect as it will appear when completed next summer. Although this headquarters of research is being erected for utilitarian purposes, it is planned to install wall panels and finish flooring of different woods in different rooms to display effectively the beauty and usefulness of many American forest species.