

glacial period when the sea level was hundreds of feet lower than now, great ice sheets spread out onto Georges Bank. Debris carried from the terminus of the ice by a network of streams probably filled the gorge till it lost its topographic expression.

So it stood for many thousands of years, perhaps until the recent earthquake gave it a kick. Then, like the load of a dump-wagon jolted from underneath, the accumulated debris slowly slid out of the trough, leaving it empty and ready for discovery by the first passing steamer with echo-sounding apparatus.

The movement was so slow that surface waves violent enough to betray the disturbance were not formed. Soundings of the ocean bottom at the mouth of the gorge reveal a zone of hummocks formed of the displaced sediments, further evidence of the great submarine landslide.

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#### MEDICINE

## New Weapons Forged To Fight Scarlet Fever

**N**EW WEAPONS with which to conquer scarlet fever, one of childhood's most serious diseases, have been forged by the scientific research division of the U. S. Public Health Service.

Chief of the new weapons is a scarlet fever streptococcus toxoid, a product which may be injected into a child's body to build up his resistance to the disease. This toxoid has been given to about 1,000 children and has given them much greater protection against the disease than any method heretofore used.

Toxoid is the poison of the scarlet fever germ to which has been added the chemical, formalin, and which has then been incubated for several months during which time it loses its poisonous property but retains ability to give protection against the disease.

The other weapons the government scientists have forged are a concentrated and purified scarlet fever toxin, for use in testing and in preparing the protective toxoid; and the development of a suitable laboratory animal method for the standardization of the scarlet fever toxin and antitoxin. This method shows great promise and as soon as possible will be made available to other laboratories interested in producing scarlet fever toxin and antitoxin.

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Red foxes are better mousers than cats.

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

# Ancient Earth of Mexico Reveals New Treasure Tomb

## Disks and Belts of Beaten Gold Among Valuable Articles Taken From Sepulcher Discovered by Indian Farmer

**T**HE ANCIENT EARTH of Mexico has revealed another rich old Indian treasure tomb. It is second only to the great archaeological discovery at Monte Alban that in January astounded the archaeological world.

Beaten gold, carved images, green jade, and obsidian objects were unearthed from this new-found tomb in a hitherto uncharted archaeological site. The site is at Texmelincan, one hundred twenty miles south of Mexico City, in the State of Guerrero. The area about the tomb is covered with archaeological mounds, concealing no one knows what manner of buildings and remains.

An Indian farmer discovered the tomb. The rare and beautiful articles were removed secretly into the safe keeping of the Mexican Department of Archaeology.

Outstanding among the discoveries is a great disk of beaten gold, eight inches in diameter. The disk has a hole in the center. On the disk are carved two intertwined plumed serpents, familiar and important symbols in ancient Mexico. The plumed serpents are portrayed with fifty-two vertebrae, probably symbolizing the fifty-two years in the Mexican century. The head of a warrior protrudes from each serpent's gaping jaws.

### Jade Necklace

Among the other rich Indian adornments in the tomb are two belts made of thin gold sheeting. These beaten-gold belts are two feet long and three inches wide. A necklace of seventy-one unusually fine carved green jade beads is another rare ornament. There are also large gold earrings, a necklace of thirty-two hollow gold beads, many pieces of carved jade, three necklaces of shell and stone beads, twenty-one copper bells, and four huge obsidian earrings, painted red.

From the tomb also were taken three onyx vases, a stone idol, four finely polished pottery vessels, apparently Toltec, and much plain pottery, some of it filled with red mercury paint and also blue mineral.

Some clues to the identity of the people who made the tomb have already been noted among the tomb objects. Serpent symbols, as well as the carved pottery, suggest the Toltec style. Symbols of Xipetotec, god of the flayed, adorn some of the pieces. Eleven copper rings are carved with Xipetotec symbols.

The nearest important ancient city to the scene of the tomb discovery is Xochicalco. This large ruin is noted for its plumed serpents and its "Toltec-Maya" style, though it is far from the Yucatan Peninsula, where the Mayan civilization flourished.

### Gold-Lined Skulls

Craniums lined with gold-leaf, and gold handles that appear to belong to scepters are strange and shining objects also taken from the tomb. The curious device of lining craniums with gold leaf is said by archaeologists to have been an ancient custom among Indians in the State of Oaxaca, to the east of Guerrero. Gold leaf to the weight of a pound has been gathered up.

The Indian farmer who made the Guerrero tomb discovery found two fine stone corn grinders among the objects in the tomb. From this it appears that some of the occupants, buried with their rich possessions, were women. The number of burials has not yet been determined.

Some of the objects from this new tomb are pronounced unique. There is, for example, a miniature turquoise mask of the wind god Ehecatl. There is also a bird's head made of turquoise, and many fragments of scattered mosaics.

Of special and absorbing interest to science are the hieroglyphs on some of the objects. These picture writings and three onyx vases stand out as clues which may link the Toltec, Mixtec, Huastec, Maya, and other great cultures in south-central Mexico.

The Mexican archaeologist, Enrique Juan Palacios, stated that ancient Indian inhabitants of the Guerrero region were versed in the Toltec calendar.

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