



DR. DAVID WHITE

—of the U. S. Geological Survey, who received the Mary Clark Thompson medal for outstanding researches in paleontology.

SCIENTIFIC AWARD

Paleontology Medal Awarded to David White

DR. DAVID WHITE, Senior Geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, was recently the recipient of one of the Academy's principal awards—the Mary Clark Thompson gold medal for distinguished service in paleontology.

This signal honor followed on the heels of Dr. White's election to honorary membership in the Geological Society of Belgium, in recognition of his worldwide preeminence in his chosen field.

He is also the recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in 1924 from the Universities of Cincinnati and Rochester and in 1925 from Williams College. Dr. White is a native of Wayne County, New York, and is a graduate of Cornell University.

Although Dr. White's life work has been done in the field of pure science, he was awarded last year the Penrose medal of the Society of Economic Geologists as a result of his contributions to economic geology. Dr. White is regarded as perhaps the leading authority in the world on the now extinct plants whose fossil imprints are found so abundantly in the roof shales of many valuable coal seams.

Science News Letter, May 14, 1932

ANTHROPOLOGY

Three Neanderthal Skeletons Discovered in Palestine

THREE adult skeletons of Neanderthal men who lived in Palestine some seventy-five thousand years ago have been discovered by the Joint Expedition of the American School of Prehistoric Research and the British School of Archaeology at Jerusalem, according to a cabled report just received by Dr. George G. MacCurdy of Yale University. Dr. MacCurdy is director of the American School.

Dr. MacCurdy pronounced this the greatest discovery of Neanderthal remains that has ever been made.

The skeletons were found near Athlit, Palestine, near the Mediterranean sea-coast, about sixty miles from Jerusalem.

The skeletons found at Athlit are the third discovery of Neanderthal remains in Palestine within eight years. A cave near the Sea of Galilee yielded the first skull in 1925, and the discovery of this long-departed type of human beings in the Near East created a stir in the world of science. The skull was the first of the Neanderthal type ever found outside of Europe.

The second discovery, that of a Neanderthal child's skeleton, was reported last May near Mt. Carmel. This find, like the present one, was made by Dr. Theodore D. McCown of the University of California, who is field director of the joint expedition.

By **PROF. GEORGE G. MacCURDY**
of Yale University, Director of the
American School of Prehistoric Research.

THE RECORDS bearing on the physical characters of Neanderthal man are still relatively rare. But in the past few years they have become much more complete than are those of the pre-Neanderthal period, when such beings as Eoanthropus, Pithecanthropus, Sinanthropus, and Homo Heidelbergensis existed.

Neanderthal man lived in the third inter-glacial and the early part of the fourth glacial epoch. In his physical make-up he retained many primitive characters, due to his branching from the main human stem as early as the Pliocene epoch. His lowly estate physi-

cally is even reflected in his kit of tools. Although a hunter, he never got so far as to represent by means of carvings, engravings, or drawings in color the animals he hunted. This step was taken by his successor, the so-called race of Crô-Magnon.

The cable received from Theodore D. McCown, field director of the Joint Expedition of the American School of Prehistoric Research and the British School of Archaeology at Jerusalem, said:

"Three adult Mousterians surely Neanderthal, heavy brow ridges, taurodont dentition."

Science News Letter, May 14, 1932

ARCHAEOLOGY

Gem Impressions Puzzle Archaeologists at Ur

ARCHAEOLOGISTS digging into the ruins of Ur of the Chaldees are frankly puzzled to account for contents of a coffin they have unearthed in the floor of a house.

When discovered, the coffin had been plundered of its bones and its vessels for offerings, says a communication from C. Leonard Woolley, director of the joint expedition of the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania Museum. In the coffin, however, were left more than 150 little lumps of baked clay. In each fragment of clay is the impression of a seal.

The clay impression, Mr. Woolley explains, were taken from a great variety of gems, some beautifully cut. The gem seals were wrought in a style of art which prevailed during the great Persian Empire, founded by Darius in the fifth century B. C. The picture on one of the gems represents the king strangling a lion.

Welcoming the unexpected discovery of so much Persian art, the archaeologists are nevertheless at a loss to explain why the clay impressions of so many jewels were made, or why they came to be buried in a grave at Ur.

Finding the coffin beneath the house might add to the mystery, if the burial were a modern one. But in ancient Ur, burying the dead under the floor of a house was a common practice.

Science News Letter, May 14, 1932