ANTHROPOLOGY

"Modern" Remains Found In Cave of Peking Man

THE CAVE where scientists unearthed Peking Man, China's oldest known inhabitant, has now yielded remains of a later important tenant. Dr. W. C. Pei and M. N. Pien of the Chinese Geological Survey have found human bones in an upper cave level, and these are pronounced the bones of *Homo sapiens,* or modern man.

The discovery reveals that China was in step with the world in the latter part of the Old Stone Age, having its own Stone Age men who made tools like those of the age in Europe and Siberia.

China's earliest modern men are found accompanied by stone and bone implements, a necklace of fox teeth, ashes and charcoal remains of fires, and bones of such animals as the tiger, hyena, wild ass, and deer. The human remains include two crushed skulls almost complete.

Bones of a large type of baboon have been found in the cave. Reporting this and the other latest discoveries from the cave to *Nature,* Prof. Davidson Black, directing the Chinese Geological Survey's researches on early man, has concluded that the cave was inhabited successively by baboons, old Peking Man, and man of our own species. This series of tenants he calls a "coincidence."

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934

ENTOMOLOGY

Mineral Coating on Rice Discourages Weevils

COATING rice with mineral dusts, to keep down heat generation during milling, also discourages the breeding of insects that infest the stored grain. So states Dr. E. R. de Ong, consulting entomologist of San Francisco.

Weevil injury to stored stocks of rice becomes very severe at times since much of the crop must be carried through the hot weather of summer until the harvest in late fall.

The difference in weevil infestation of rice coated with calcium carbonate and untreated rice was noticed and experiments made to determine the value of the coating for protection alone. In a jar of uncoated rice, several living rice weevils and bran bugs were placed. A similar number of living weevils and bran bugs were placed in another jar containing rice to which one per cent. of finely ground calcium carbonate had been added. These jars were kept at a temperature ranging from 50 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, with sufficient moisture added to favor breeding.

In sixty days the rice weevils had decreased 50 per cent. in the coated rice and in the uncoated rice 25 per cent. The striking results, however, came at the end of a year following the higher summer temperatures which had stimulated breeding. The number of weevils in the coated rice had remained absolutely stationary throughout the year. That is, there had been just sufficient breeding to equal the small number dying. In the uncoated rice the weevils had increased more than one thousand per cent. The bran bugs had decreased slightly in both lots of rice.

The weevil attack in the uncoated rice resulted in a loss in weight of 42 per cent., a cubic foot of the coated rice weighing 76 pounds and the uncoated rice 44 pounds. The infested rice also had a very dirty appearance, necessitating the expense of recleaning besides the additional loss of weight.

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934

BOTANY

Grass Seeds Fly High, Airplane Traps Show

GRASS seeds that appear literally to fill the air at certain seasons were described recently by Mrs. Agnes Chase, specialist in grasses of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The widespread presence of these seeds in high air levels was discovered as a by-product of airplane flights made in the study of insect distribution. These planes carry open traps that scoop in any flying or floating thing in their paths, so that with the insects they took in a lot of plant seeds. At first these were merely discarded, but when it was pointed out that they might have interest to botanists, the grass seeds were turned over to Mrs. Chase for identification.

The collections on which she reported were made during a limited period in the summer, and contained almost nothing but seeds (or more accurately, seeds and certain attached parts) of just two species of grass. Only a few seeds of other grass species were found. The two species reported so abundantly in the catches of the traps came from all air levels between 200 and 3,500 feet.

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934

IN SCIEN

PUBLIC HEALTH

Drive on Leaks in Narcotic Supply Urged

ONE OUT OF a hundred of those handling narcotic drugs for medical purposes are either drug victims themselves or supply more narcotics to addicts than they should have.

This condition, revealed by a U. S. Bureau of Narcotics survey, caused H. J. Anslinger, U. S. Commissioner of Narcotics, to appeal to state medical examining boards for aid in stopping up these leaks that allow addicts to receive drug supplies intended for legitimate medical use.

While most physicians observe the federal law regulating the sale and use of morphine and other narcotics, the U. S. survey revealed that out of 150,000 physicians, dentists, hospitals and veterinarians registered under the Harrison Narcotic Law, about 1,700, mostly practitioners, were using narcotics for addiction purposes.

Mr. Anslinger recommended revoking the licenses of offending physicians, since without licenses they could not register under the Harrison Narcotic Law and thus could not obtain narcotics from legitimate sources.

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934

SEISMOLOGY

Earthquake Centered Under Northeastern China Sea

THE EARTHQUAKE that was felt in Manila on Tuesday, Feb. 13, centered in the bottom of the northeast end of the China Sea, between Manila and Hong Kong, about 400 miles to the southeast of the latter port. This determination of an approximate epicenter was made by seismologists of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, on the basis of data collected telegraphically by Science Service.

The geographical coordinates of the epicenter were approximately 21 degrees north latitude, 120 degrees east longitude. Time of origin was 10:59.5 p. m., Eastern Standard Time.

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934

CE FIELDS

NUTRITION

Vitamin D in Diet Aids Tropical Fish

TOO MANY of J. I. Spira's tropical fish were dying: they developed a sort of softening of the spine, grew pale, and at last turned belly-up. Dr. Sidney Brown of Chicago, borrowed an idea from his practice, and suggested giving them viosterol, which is ergosterol rayed with ultraviolet, which in turn constitutes it a concentrated form of the rickets-preventing vitamin D.

Mr. Spira carried out his friend's suggestion, adding the oil-dissolved viosterol to the regular fish ration of dried shrimp, beetle and ground fresh liver. The sick fish grew healthy again, although the ones that had become deformed did not recover normal shape. Mr. Spira relates his experience in *Science*.

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934

PUBLIC HEALTH

Physicians Should Direct Teaching About Health

SINCE the public has awakened to a keen curiosity about its health, it is up to physicians to supervise the job of health education for the layman, seeing that it is done sanely, wisely and conservatively, Dr. W. W. Bauer of the American Medical Association told medical educators gathered in Chicago at the Annual Congress on Medical Education, Licensure and Hospitals.

"The time has definitely gone by when a patient will blindly take three pink pills in half a glass of water before meals and four green pills in a third of a glass of water before bedtime without having the slightest idea what may be wrong with him and why he is being advised as he is," Dr. Bauer pointed out.

Although he granted that too much medical information does arouse neurasthenic tendencies in the morbid, Dr. Bauer maintained that this disadvantage is outweighed by benefits from health education. These include a better appreciation of medical science, better understanding of difficulties involved in diagnosis and treatment, more interest in scientific research and livelier appreciation of hygiene, diet and medical supervision in health.

At present the public curiosity is mainly misdirected, the interest often converging where it ought not to and failing to focus where it might accomplish good, Dr. Bauer asserted. One of the principal factors in this misdirection is the activities of persons engaged in exploiting the public's interest in health for private profit. These efforts constitute, Dr. Bauer said, "the plainest handwriting that was ever written on any wall admonishing the physician that he must function as a health educator" if he is to save the public from its own folly and if he is to retain his own leadership among guardians of health.

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934

PSYCHOLOGY

Parents Should be Treated In Problem Child Cases

TREAT the parents, not the child, in problem cases. This would seem to be the lesson learned from a study of the success of child guidance clinic treatment in one hundred cases. The study was reported by Dr. Ruth M. Hubbard and Mrs. Christine F. Adams of the Child Guidance Clinic, Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, N. Y., to the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

They found that the fault for the children's problem behavior was more frequently in parental attitudes and insight and that success was quite directly proportional to the amount of treatment directed toward the parents rather than to the amount of treatment directed toward the children.

By far the most work at the clinic, however, was done with the children themselves, which, Dr. Hubbard pointed out, is an interesting comment on the treatment program.

The four most important factors in predicting success in the treatment of the hundred cases studied were: cooperation of parents during treatment; degree of initial maladjustment; economic status; and initial contact between clinic and family.

From these factors alone success in treatment can be predicted more accurately than school success can be predicted from intelligence tests, Dr. Hubbard and Mrs. Adams found.

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934

ARCHAEOLOGY

Pottery Corn Ear Fooled Geologist

PERUVIAN Indian potters, unknown centuries ago, made a clay model of an ear of corn so good that it fooled a first-rate geologist.

The story was told before an audience of Washington botanists, by Dr. Roland W. Brown, paleobotanist of the U. S. National Museum.

The specimen, brown and stony-looking, was sent to the Museum many years ago, as a fossilized ear of corn. The geologist (whose name is withheld, because he is now dead) accepted it as such, and filed it in a museum tray.

A shore time ago Dr. Brown took a good look at the supposed fossil, and became suspicious. He split it lengthwise with his stone-cutting saw, and immediately discovered its true nature. He also discovered a hollow in its base, in which were three small rattling pellets of the same hardened clay.

Rejected as a fossil, the pottery ear of corn has now been turned over to the Museum archaeologists, who have also inherited from the geologists the riddle of trying to discover its age.

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934

CHEMISTRY

Turnip Juice Recommended As Source of Vitamin C

JUICE from the lowly turnip is recommended as a good depression substitute for orange juice or tomato juice. Attention is called to its value as a cheap source of scurvy-preventing vitamin C by Dr. E. W. McHenry of the University of Toronto School of Hygiene in a report to the Canadian Medical Association *Journal*.

In Toronto one cent will buy 1,100 vitamin C units from turnip juice, whereas the number of vitamin C units from one cent's worth of lemon juice are 180, from orange juice 220, from tomato purchased as juice 170 and from tomato juice prepared from canned tomatoes 180.

Two pounds of ordinary turnips will give fifteen ounces of the juice, which is said to be sweet and not unpalatable. Salt improves the flavor, but for infants the pure juice is advised. The juice may be easily made at home by grating a section of turnip and pressing the juice from the minced material.

Science News Letter, February 24, 1934