

wounded animal would, by magic, bring the real animal more easily into the hunter's power, so the figurines of women are believed to have served a purpose of magic. Desire for love and children is held responsible for the strange art.

But now comes the Siberian discovery, to show that not all sculptors of the stone age of art made women grotesquely fat. Twenty female Aurignacian images have been discovered in eastern Siberia at the village of Malta. Photographs of several of these figurines which have reached this country show slender lines, none of the exaggerations of the typical prehistoric Venuses.

Russian archaeologists pronounce the figures objects of religious cult, and goddesses. Whether the Eastern Venuses will be fitted into a picture of Stone Age woman as something more than a mate and mother, remains to be seen.

Soviet scientists have been conducting an extensive hunt for new evidences of the Old Stone Age in their part of the

world. No less than 62 sites where ancient man took shelter or buried his dead are now known in Soviet Union territory, it is announced.

The camp and burial ground at Malta, revealed by a farmer digging a cellar, has been excavated by the archaeologist, M. Gerasimov, and the numerous relics of Stone Age existence have been transferred from the farm cellar to the Academy of Science at Leningrad.

Besides the twenty Venuses, in evidence of some ancient religious cult, the site has yielded objects used in everyday life or placed with the dead for their use. Among the familiar articles of use in this remote age in Siberia are coal bracelets, beads made of fish vertebrae, buttons of deer horn, needles, pins, pointed weapons of mammoth bone and flint. The skeleton of one three-year-old child was found covered with a large array of such ornaments and possessions characteristic of human existence long ago.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1935

BACTERIOLOGY

War Against Bacteria Only Sporting Proposition

BACTERIOLOGISTS—disease fighters—have for some years been presented to a sentimental public as heroes and martyrs. The bacteriologists themselves are alternately disgusted and amused by the lionizing.

An eminent member of their band now explains how they really feel about their work and answers the question, "How do bacteriologists get that way?"

Bacteriology is a sporting proposition, says Dr. Hans Zinsser in his new book, "Rats, Lice and History" (Little, Brown and Co.)

The desire to do good is the last reason why men go into this work, he thinks. The underlying motive is a love of adventure and a longing for excitement. In our modern world bacteriology is almost the only field in which a man can find excitement. Just as the British cavalry officers took to fox-hunting when there were no wars to be fought, the "men against death" have chosen to fight the microscopic organisms that prey on mankind.

Microbes are no less ferocious than dragons. A bacteriologist, Dr. Zinsser would have us believe, gets just as much thrill out of his work as the old-time knight in armor who rescued the lovely princess.

"Wars," he points out, "are exercises in ballistics, chemical ingenuity, administration, hard physical labor, and long-distance mass murder. . . . Flying is adventurous enough, but little more than a kind of acrobatics for garage mechanics, like automobile racing. But however secure and well-regulated civilized life may become, bacteria, protozoa, viruses, infected fleas, lice, ticks, mosquitoes, and bedbugs will always lurk in the shadows ready to pounce when neglect, poverty, famine, or war lets down the defenses"

"About the only genuine sporting proposition that remains unimpaired by the relentless domestication of a once free-living human species is the war against these ferocious little fellow creatures, which lurk in the dark corners and stalk us in the bodies of rats, mice, and all kinds of domestic animals; which fly and crawl with the insects, and waylay us in our food and drink and even in our love."

Science News Letter, March 23, 1935

RADIO

Argentina to London Record Of Ultra-Short Radio Waves

A WORLD'S record for long distance transmission of ultra-short radio waves was achieved when the Buenos Aires, Argentina, radio station LSL was heard in London, 6,000 miles away. The waves that carried the record-breaking signal were the station's "first harmonics," having a wavelength of seven meters. Their fading characteristic was quite different from that of the primary fourteen-meter signal.

Engineers of the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) are greatly interested, because there is evidence that the seven-meter signal was carried by reflected waves, after the fashion of the longer wavelengths, and were not refraction waves or waves of optical nature with their straight-line range extended by starting from a great height, as in an airplane. Hitherto all ultra-short wave transmission records have been established by one of these two methods.

The new record is far in excess of the old one that stood until recently, which was only from Berlin to London.

The British Broadcasting Company is especially interested in the reported

new long-range record for ultra-short waves, because it expects to start television broadcasting on a seven-meter band during the coming fall. Their pictures will scan at a fineness of 240 lines to the inch. The new Buenos Aires-London record holds out the possibility that this television broadcast may reach much farther than expected.

Television broadcasts are also to start in Germany within the next few months. They will probably scan at 180 lines to the inch, with 25 frames per second, and have been announced as the world's first high-quality regular television programs. With the new British television broadcasts in prospect, a sort of unofficial race looms between Britain and Germany.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1935

To the Empress Josephine goes credit for holding the first exhibition of roses.

The American Museum of Natural History has received from Texas an Imperial Mammoth tusk 15 feet 4 inches long, believed to have weighed as fresh ivory almost 300 pounds.