

ANTHROPOLOGY

New Human Relative in Skull "Of Greatest Importance"

Bones Found in East Africa May Be of Distinct Type Of Man, Low in Evolution, Long Since Died Out

A PREHISTORIC human skull that has come to light in East Africa provides man with a brand-new relative for his proud old family tree.

Enthusiastically hailing the skull as "of the greatest importance," Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, noted British anthropologist, gives his opinion that this early African was an entirely different genus of man from any heretofore known.

Dr. Leakey's verdict, if generally accepted, means that an unsuspected extinct branch of the human race is now known; and that this distinct type of man, low in type, was among a number of genera and species of humans who were on earth, but who died out, leaving only the species, *Homo sapiens*, to which all mankind alive belongs.

The skull represents a man who was "a low type of human with some markedly anthropoid characters," Dr. Leakey declares (*Nature*, Dec. 26). Primitive and uncouth as this man was, he had his day on earth surprisingly late. Although this Stone Age African had the beetling-eye ridges like his shambling, clumsy distant "cousin," Neandertal man, the African represents a generation more than 30 thousand years later than Neandertal Man's own characteristic age. Assigning the new discovery to the early or middle Gamblian period of Africa's geological history, Dr.

Leakey is thereby suggesting that the new-found genus of man existed on earth somewhere about 30,000 years ago.

The skull, which Dr. Leakey has examined in Berlin at the Natural History Museum by special arrangement with the discoverer, was unearthed during a scientific expedition to the Eyassi Lake basin in Tanganyika Territory. In the course of the expedition, which lasted from 1934 to 1936, Dr. Kohl-Larsen found parts of three fossil skulls, one of which is the important type of human which Dr. Leakey has pronounced unique in discovery.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1937

PUBLIC HEALTH

Flu Cases Double But Optimism Is Felt

ALTHOUGH the number of reported cases of influenza doubled during the week of January 11 to 16, there is a feeling at the U. S. Public Health Service that the prevalence of influenza in the nation may be on the down-grade.

One note of concern is what effect the concentration of inaugural crowds in Washington may have on the course of this present outburst. People from all parts of the country came to Washington, were exposed to infection

brought to Washington by other visitors, became chilled due to the rainy weather and may return to their homes coughing and sneezing as active spreaders of colds and influenza.

Reports from various states show 23,258 reported cases during the week ending Jan. 16 as compared with 12,145 for the week before. But one cheering fact is that in New York where the disease struck early there is now a decline in cases reported. Not all cases of influenza are reported because doctors are often too busy to get the reports made out. So while the number of cases reported is an indication of relative prevalence there are probably five or more times as many actual cases.

The present outbreak does not approach the epidemics of 1929 and 1933. There were 200,000 reported cases in the first week of January, 1929, and 60,000 in 1933.

The influenza epidemic abroad shows little sign of abating, it appears from a League of Nations' cabled communication received at the U. S. Public Health

EYES FORETELL DEATH

Parents, lovers and business men hope to learn truths by a "Look in the Eye." Physicians have really found that these windows reveal important signs of disease and approaching death. For instance, a look into the eye at left revealed tuberculosis and destruction of the center of sight to Dr. Arthur J. Bedell, of Albany, N. Y., while in the center eye Dr. Bedell found swollen blood vessels, with veins dark and arteries lighter, which revealed high blood pressure in the early stage. This condition, Dr. Bedell says, can be discovered more quickly and more positively by photographic examination of the background of the eye than by any other method. At the right is the eye of a patient who was absolutely unconscious of poor health but who died just 90 days later of the high blood pressure revealed here.

