

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.

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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.

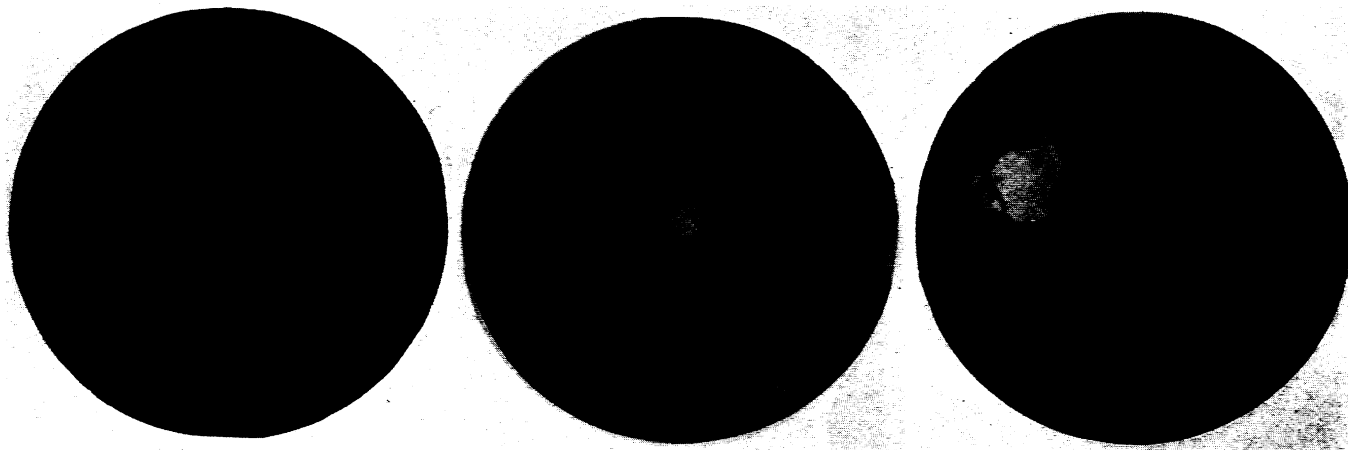
Reports from various states show 23,258 reported cases during the week ending Jan. 16 as compared with 12,145 for the week before. But one cheering fact is that in New York where the disease struck early there is now a decline in cases reported. Not all cases of influenza are reported because doctors 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.



Service. The disease is still spreading northwards in England and threatens to exceed the 1933 epidemic in severity. London reported 311 deaths in one week and other English cities a total of 457 deaths. Pneumonia cases for the week were 2,335.

On the continent, the epidemic has declined in Berlin but influenza mortality increased in Copenhagen and Amsterdam. The epidemic was widespread but mild in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Spain during December.

Science News Letter, January 30, 1937

ARCHAEOLOGY

Egypt's Oldest Horse Found Buried in Huge Thebes Tomb

Monkey Also Was Carefully Wrapt and Given Human Burial; Housewife Took Clean Sheets to Her Grave

THE LATEST "famous character" to come to light in Egypt is Senmut's horse.

When Egyptologists, digging in a ravine at Thebes, found a huge coffin and lifted the lid, they were frankly surprised. A horse!

The horse was undoubtedly as old as the people buried nearby. It must be, then, a fifteenth century B. C. horse, and therefore the oldest horse ever found in Egypt. First horses were brought to Egypt by the Hyksos about 1700 B. C., but no remains of those early steeds have yet come to light.

And if the beast belonged to the famous Senmut, whose parents were buried in the hillside, why, then, that would give the horse added prestige. For Senmut stands out in history as a classic example of the self-made man. Over 3000 years before Horatio Alger's heroes began to glorify the "boy who makes good," Egyptian Senmut was showing how the trick could be done.

Senmut joined the political band wagon following the royal lady Hatshepsut, who had an eye on the throne of Egypt. Hatshepsut seized the throne from her step-son, nephew, son-in-law combined—the usual confusion of Egyptian royal relationships—and made herself not merely queen, but king, with false beard and full kingly honors. And Senmut, who had kept right along with her, became the favorite of the world's first great queen in history.

The Egyptian expedition of the Metropolitan Museum of Art has unearthed Senmut's horse, along with much other evidence about him.

In a report of the latest discoveries, Ambrose Lansing and William C. Hayes, of the expedition, account for the horse receiving special burial:

"The horse was, in the time of Senmut, a recent importation from Asia into Egypt, and it is natural that anyone who owned a horse would have prized an animal so spirited as compared with the lowly donkey, which up to that time had been the only animal of the sort in Egypt.

"At any rate, it is not much of an assumption to consider this a pet horse, nor much more hazardous to assume that it was Senmut's favorite mount."

The Egyptologists found the horse wrapped up in linen just as though it were a human being. They could find no signs, though, that it had been put through any mummifying process.

On its back, among the wrappings,

they discovered a saddle. And this is believed to be the oldest saddle yet found. It is a rectangular piece of linen and leather, with a projection toward the rear. Tapes at the front end were tied round the horse's neck, and two longer tapes at the other corners formed a girth. The underside of the saddle was reinforced.

A smaller box found farther along the gully was at first taken for a child's coffin. But again the Egyptologists were surprised. A pet ape!

Identifying the animal as a cynocephalus ape, the Egyptologists say:

"The animal had been carefully wrapped and buried just as though it were a child, and in the coffin had been placed a saucer of raisins. Its owner, whether Senmut or another, had evidently been very fond of his pet monkey."

76 Clean Sheets

In the grave of an Egyptian housewife, buried 1494 B. C., the Egyptologists found 76 clean and pressed fringed sheets.

"Their amazing state of preservation allowed them to be unfolded, measured, and refolded at will," says the report. The sheets are among household supplies discovered in the tomb of Ramose and Hat-nufer, parents of Senmut.

To housemistress Hat-nufer goes the honor of clearing up a mystery date in Egyptian royal history. In her tomb is evidence showing when the feminist



TOMB OF HORSE

The great box in the excavation was opened with great curiosity by scientists who found—a horse.