

marry, usually prefer a maid to an older woman of their own status. Unfortunately the divorcees, who are most plentiful, are to some extent biological inferiors and discards who are worthless matrimonial prospects. Their rate of remarriage is hard to calculate, but it is probable that only a minority of them ever remarry. Those who do remarry represent the more normal and desirable of the group, and the Institute's studies show that their success in a second marriage is not very much less than that of the rest of the population in first-and-only marriages. Divorcees should be scrutinized critically, therefore, but not necessarily rejected, although widowers by death rather than widowers by law, to borrow the terminology of the matrimonial bureau, are probably better 'prospects.'

Having made herself attractive and marriageable and having sought out the acquaintance of a large number of eligible men to whom she has taken a friendly attitude, the girl should pay strict at-

tention to her "technique." She should be careful to avoid the pitfall of too much aggression in the courtship or proposal, Dr. Popenoe warns.

The role of the female as seductive and alluring rather than aggressive goes back in evolution not only far beyond the human, but far beyond the mammalian stage; it is unlikely that it can be disregarded with safety at the present time.

"One of the common complaints of unhappy husbands is that their wives are too aggressive, of unhappy wives, that their husbands are not aggressive enough," Dr. Popenoe found.

"No law now prevents women from proposing, but every-day observation shows that it is not worthwhile for her to do so.

"The woman who is not clever enough to maneuver a man into a position where he will propose, is probably not clever enough to hold a man after she gets one."

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#### PALEONTOLOGY

## Sea Serpent's Skull Found By California Student

A FOSSILIZED skull of a mosasaur—huge serpentine sea-reptile which lived during the upper Cretaceous geologic period, some 60,000,000 years ago, has been found near the town of Gustine, Calif., by Allan Bennison, a sophomore in the University of California. It is the first mosasaur skull to be found west of the Rockies.

The skull is about two feet long, and is six inches in width at its broadest point. It was found embedded in a sandstone formation on the side of a hill, just west of the town. It has been given to the University's museum of paleontology for study.

S. P. Welles, field laboratory assistant in the museum, has informed Science Service that the reptile was about

18 feet long, with a slender, snake-like body. Its limbs resembled paddles with which it propelled its way through the water. Its tail was somewhat fan-like in shape, and served as a scull to guide its passage. In appearance, Mr. Welles said, it was a "cross between the present day sea-lion and sea-snake."

Its habitat was the ocean. But like the whale, it had to come to the surface for air. It had large, sharp teeth and probably was a fish eater.

Paleontologists at the university are planning an expedition to the region in which the find was made, in the hope of recovering the remainder of the skeleton. It is believed this will necessitate tunneling into the side of the hill, as the skull itself was found on a steep slope.

Some two years ago, Mr. Bennison found a dinosaur in the same region, and this discovery led him to make a careful survey of the area, with the result that he uncovered his present find.

*Science News Letter, August 14, 1937*

The Romans got their first taste of food made from rye and oats when they encountered northern Europeans.

#### ASTRONOMY

## Supposed "Ghost" Comet Claimed To Be Real

WHEN reports were received in April of the discovery of a new comet in the southern skies by W. F. Gale, an Australian astronomer, and great observatories in Europe and America were unable to locate it, the assumption was made that it was a "ghost." It was near the brilliant planet Mars, and often reflections from such a bright object, inside the eyepiece of a telescope, cause these ghosts, which look like comets.

The comet was real after all, according to a claim in a letter from Mr. Gale to Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin, published in the *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*. Mr. Gale states that he fully recognized the likelihood of its being a ghost, and made careful tests to determine its reality. The telescope, he says, never showed such ghosts before, and the comet was seen best when Mars was completely out of the field. It was observed by several others, and through other telescopes, over a period of nearly a month, during which it moved as a comet should.

As he found the comet to vary considerably in brightness, it may be that it happened to be very faint when the northern observers looked for it. Also, it was much better placed for viewing in Australia, for there it was nearly overhead, while in Europe and North America it was low in the south. After the word was circulated that it could not be found, and northern astronomers decided that it was a ghost, no further search was made.

*Science News Letter, August 14, 1937*

#### ANTHROPOLOGY

## Man Himself is Feature Of New Style World's Fair

IMPOSSIBLE as it may seem, a new style in world's fairs and expositions is being set. Industrial, territorial and colonial expansion and, more recently, scientific achievements have dominated world's fairs in the past. When the New York World's Fair opens in 1939 the new style, with emphasis on man himself, will come to full flower.

The general theme of this fair will be "Man and the World of Tomorrow." But if man is to dominate the fair generally, he will reign supreme in the building which will house exhibits displaying the latest scientific knowledge of medicine and public health.

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