



PIT HOUSE SEES DAYLIGHT

*This big assembly room, being excavated by Field Museum archaeologists, was a dark underground structure in an Indian village of the Mogollon Mountains in New Mexico. A short tunnel served as entrance. A fire pit and three storage pits have been found.*

## MEDICINE

## Chronic Joint Trouble Linked To Worry, Poverty And Grief

**Nearly All of Fifty Cases Studied Were Insecure; Relative Importance of Emotional Factors Needs Study**

**E**NVIRONMENTAL stress, especially poverty, grief and family worry, seem to bear more than a chance relationship to the onset and flare-up of the chronic joint disease, rheumatoid arthritis, Drs. Stanley Cobb, Walter Bauer and Isabel Whiting of Boston, report. (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Aug. 19)

Ten men and 21 women in the group of fifty studied gave histories of financial stress involving "tough times," "no work," or "on relief." These accounts corresponded in point of time with the onset or flare-up of the arthritis.

The same underlying factors of uncertainty of work, with the consequent worry about a livelihood for their families, appear in the studies of 12 other patients. In these individuals, however, there is not so much evidence of time relationship between the event of the social stress and the increase in the severity of the arthritis as in the 31 cases.

The remaining seven cases in the group studied, which included some of the youngest patients, gave no indication of relationship between social insecurity and arthritic history.

"Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic disease of unknown origin," the physicians declare. "It respects neither age, sex, race nor social position, although it does affect women more frequently than men, white persons more often than Negroes and the poor more commonly than the rich. In addition to the joint involvement, which is usually symmetrical and more likely to affect small joints first, the patients complain of constitutional, vasomotor or urologic symptoms."

The physicians believe that the relative importance of emotional factors in the cause of the disease can be established only by a much more detailed psychiatric study of a large group of such patients.

*Science News Letter, September 2, 1939*

## ARCHAEOLOGY

## Invisible Indian Villages Detected by Expedition

**I**NVISIBLE Indian villages, marked only by tiniest surface clues, have been detected in mountains of western New Mexico by Field Museum of Natural History's expedition in search of the little-known Mogollon Indian culture of the old Southwest.

The dead and buried villages were found just off the trail followed by the Spanish gold hunting expedition of Coronado, which marched that way in its futile search for the fabulous wealth of the "Seven Cities of Cibola," says the first report of the find, received from the expedition leader, Dr. Paul S. Martin.

Thumb-nail-size scraps of brown Indian pottery, scarcely different from pebbles in appearance, drew the archaeologists' attention to the significance of the site. Excavating, they have uncovered walls and floor of a subterranean pit-house used by Indians for celebrations. The underground building is 33 feet in diameter, and is pronounced one of the largest structures of the kind ever excavated in the region.

Like gold-hunting Coronado, modern local pottery hunters have never suspected the presence of the hidden prehistoric settlements. The place had already been abandoned more than 700 years when Coronado passed, by, in the 1540's, according to Dr. Martin's estimate of the site's antiquity.

The expedition, he reports, has already found important clues concerning the age and development of the Mogollon culture of the Southwest.

*Science News Letter, September 2, 1939*

## MEDICINE

## Body Parts Petrified For Study by Physicians

**P**ETRIFYING news from Italy via the American Medical Association: Prof. Francesco Spirito, head of the obstetric and gynecologic clinic of Siena University, preserves human viscera so effectively that they look like pieces of colored marble.

The method is still secret, deposited with the Accademia dei Lincei, but the world will be told eventually.

Diseased organs can be petrified to facilitate study and then made soft again for microscopic examination. Other Italian scientists have had similar methods, but they never disclosed how they did the trick.

*Science News Letter, September 2, 1939*