

the family and to black-tongue in the dogs. Lately Dr. Spies has noticed in pet dogs the same eye symptoms of riboflavin deficiency that appear in humans whose diet lacks this vitamin. As in humans, the condition in dogs can be rapidly cured by doses of riboflavin and can be prevented by proper diet.

Since marked symptoms of pellagra

and riboflavin deficiency usually do not appear in people until after they have been on poor diets for some time and have for months or years been weak, listless and vaguely ill, examination of the family's pet dog may in future be added to other diagnostic tests for human illnesses.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Prehistoric Baths

Discovery of archaeological expedition in Colombia reveals that Indians had advantages of running water and artistic decoration.

► COMPLETE with running water facilities, three bathtubs hewn from a rocky slope approximately 2,000 years ago in the San Agustin region of Colombia, South America, may be the key to a prehistoric civilization. Unearthed during an archaeological expedition six years ago sponsored by the Colombian government, this treasure was described for the first time in this country in an exclusive interview by one of the explorers, Dr. Gregorio Hernandez de Alba, director of the National Archaeological Museum of Colombia.

The three prehistoric baths, Dr. de Alba explained, cause scientists to wonder whether this is proof that modern

Indian tradition is actually a carry-over from as far back as 500 B. C.

Bathing is symbolic of purification in modern Indian culture, he explained. Before a tribal mother who has borne a child can return to her family, both she and the baby must bathe in a nearby creek. After a burial, all members of the mourning party, fully clothed, must splash around in the creek, ridding themselves of evil spirits. Any Colombian Indian upon seeing a rainbow in the sky must immediately rush to the creek and, fully clothed, wash the devil away.

That this modern custom has been derived from ancient tradition has long

been the archaeologist's theory. The remains of the prehistoric baths give tangible evidence to such reasoning.

The baths are approximately nine feet long, four feet wide, and from one to three feet deep. Variation in depth occurs because the baths face across the slope; one nine-foot side being three feet deep, the other being only one foot deep, allowing a steady stream of water to flow across the bather and out of the bath.

No pipes or tubing were required for the running water arrangement. But the prehistoric plumbers showed great skill in their plans. The main stream on the slope was diverted into a series of little canals headed downstream, providing a continuous water supply.

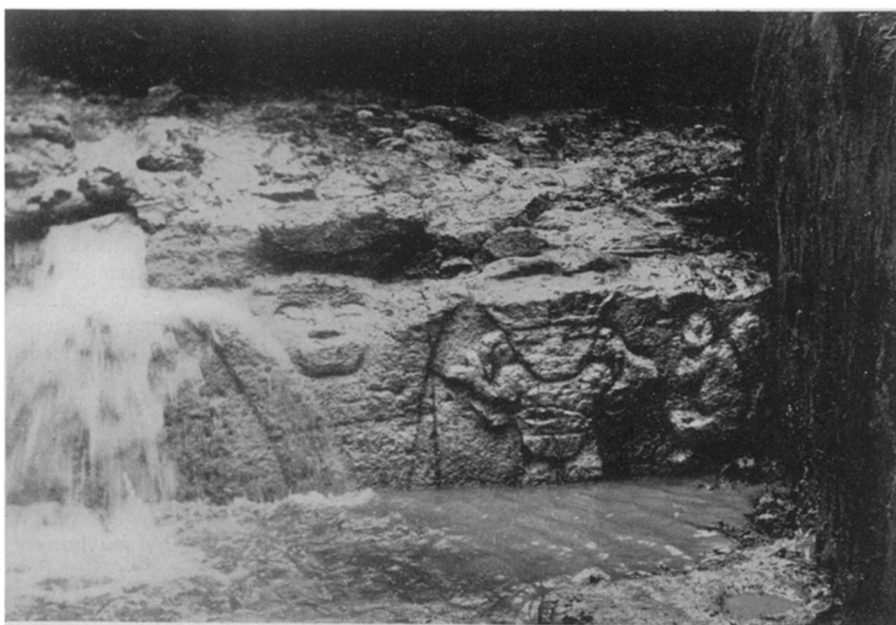
Elaborate carvings were found on all sides of the tubs. Water animals such as snakes, lizards and frogs predominate, all facing inward. There are also human heads, Indian figurines and monkeys. High on the hill overlooking the baths is a seat hewn from the slope. On the left side of this seat is carved a human arm, and on the lower part are carved two human feet. On these carvings the chief or ruler or priest rested his arm and legs while he presided over the ceremony.

"Customs and traditions associated with these ancient remains are buried in the past," says Dr. de Alba. "We can only guess that the elaborately carved baths had religious implications. But from the ingenious canals diverted from the main stream to create a gentle and continuous water flow, it is easy to surmise that we have here represented a high plane of ancient culture."

A wearisome 16-day mule trek for early expeditionary parties from Bogota, the capital of Colombia, the 560-mile trip to San Agustin now takes two days by train or auto.

Dr. de Alba was invited to come to this country by the Committee of Artistic and Intellectual Relations of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs to make a report on the manners and customs of the Indians living in the Andes in southern Colombia. He is also preparing a survey of the archaeology of this area for the Institute of Andean Research, a research organization composed of scientists interested in the anthropological problems of the Andean and adjacent areas. While in this country, Dr. de Alba has been commissioned by the Secretary of Education of Colombia to study the organization of our anthropological museums.

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ANCIENT INDIAN BATHTUB—Using an ingenious arrangement of canals, the prehistoric plumber designed these 2000-year-old tubs complete with running water facilities. Hewn from the bedrock of a stream, the elaborate carvings on the bath are symbols of an ancient culture.