

Dart has therefore named him *Australopithecus prometheus*, which means "southern ape that used fire."

Dr. Dart also found evidence that the ape-man used weapons to kill game by bashing in their skulls. They also killed one another in this violent way.

GENETICS

He-Men Have More Sons

Theory advanced that ratio of boy to girl babies is controlled by genes acting through endocrine glands, especially sex hormones.

► THE MORE he-man Daddy is, the more likely that he will father boy babies. And the reverse.

This theory is advanced by Dr. Marianne E. Bernstein, Fulbright fellow at the Institute of Statistics in Rome, Italy. (SCIENCE, Aug. 17).

Dr. Bernstein believes that the ratio of boy to girl babies is controlled by the genes acting through the endocrine gland system, especially the sex hormones.

Fathers suffering from gland disturbances, such as gout and Graves' disease which is a thyroid gland disorder, had more than the average number of female offspring, she found.

Bald men, Dr. Bernstein found, had 40% more male offspring than men with full hair or with receding hairline that had not developed into full baldness. And male hormones, she points out, play a role in the development of baldness.

Dr. Bernstein believes that men engaged in aggressive occupations in which few or no women have been outstanding are

The important bone casts received include parts of the jaw and skull and also a very human-like pelvis bone. The form of the pelvis and the way the skull was balanced show that the animal stood erect.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1951

more masculine than men engaged in introvert, retiring occupations.

Dr. Bernstein's statistical studies showed that in families where the fathers were in such occupations as members of the armed forces, business executives, politicians, lawyers, farmers and abstract scientists such as astronomers and mathematicians, the sex ratio of 5,400 children was 120 boys for every 100 girls.

In families where the fathers followed professions in which many women have become famous, such as actors, social workers, child educators, fiction writers and artists of all kinds, the sex ratio for 1,800 children was 85 boys for every 100 girls born.

Dr. Bernstein theorizes that the X-bearing sperms, because of their female chromosomal balance, form a foreign entity in the male reproductive organs. They are therefore destroyed in smaller or larger numbers inside the male, depending on his degree of maleness.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1951

WILDLIFE

Rise and Fall of Animals Is Chance

► CHANCE APPEARS to dictate yearly variations in the number of wild animals—whether lemmings, snowshoe rabbits or lynx.

There probably is no "mysterious" cause for the observed regularity of population cycles in animals, concludes Dr. LaMont C. Cole, zoologist at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Yearly changes in the numbers of various animals could be brought about through

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