

ARCHAEOLOGY

Kensington Stone Studied

► THE MUCH disputed Kensington stone may be an authentic relic of 14th century Norsemen after all.

This is the suggestion made by Dr. William Thalbitzer, a Danish expert on Runic inscriptions, in a report to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

The Kensington stone was found in 1898 near the village of Kensington, Minn., by a Swedish farmer named Olof Ohman while grubbing trees on a hill. The stone was held by the roots of an aspen, and there was some evidence that it had been there for many years. The stone contained an inscription in Runic characters which indicated that it was left by a party of Norsemen in the year 1362.

Doubt was cast on the authenticity of the find by Runic scholars who found many inconsistencies in the writing, including some words surprisingly similar to English.

The Smithsonian Institution has taken no position regarding the authenticity of the stone, but put it on exhibition in Washington so that other scholars might have an opportunity to study it. The original stone was shown from Feb. 17, 1948, to Feb. 25, 1949. A full-size replica is now on exhibition.

Dr. Thalbitzer was among those who considered the stone fraudulent. But now, after further study of the stone and in the light of modern developments in the knowledge of runes, he says, "I cannot but waver in my doubt. . . . It seems to me that, after all, the inscription may be authentic.

"The cautious philologist will find that the signification of the Kensington stone has not yet been established. It must be decided whether it has not been condemned too quickly."

Science News Letter, September 29, 1951

doctors agreed, were in a coma upon arrival. Some had convulsions; some were blind and deaf. Most would have died within three or four weeks without treatment.

Today, two and one-half to three years later, more than half of them are alive and apparently in perfect health. The doctors are optimistic, but still looking for better drugs or combinations of them to use in the future.

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MEDICINE

TB Meningitis Victims

► MORE THAN half the child victims of tuberculous meningitis, once always fatal, can now be saved, Drs. Sidney Dressler and Arthur Robinson of the National Jewish Hospital in Denver report.

A 50% saving in lives has been accomplished among patients by injecting streptomycin and PAS, two modern anti-TB drugs, directly into the lower spine and brain spaces as well as into the muscles.

This treatment, with other new methods, was tried in a study undertaken with the cooperation of the U. S. Public Health Service which has also cooperated in similar studies at the following five medical schools: Columbia, Tulane, Johns Hopkins, Temple and Harvard.

Tuberculous meningitis claims more victims under the age of three than all other forms of tuberculosis combined, the doctors point out. The disease is an inflammation of the covering of the brain due to TB germs carried to the brain in the blood stream. Adhesions at the base of the brain interfere with normal circulation of the spinal fluid, building up fluid pressures which cause brain damage and death.

"Until streptomycin was developed there was nothing that could be done. They just died," Dr. Robinson explained. "But we had to learn how to use it. That was the purpose of the study."

Most of the children brought to the National Jewish Hospital under the study, the

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