ARCHAEOLOGY

'Missing Link' Found?

A dinosaur skeleton 25 feet long that was found in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming and Montana is approximately 116 million years old.

➤ ONE OF THE "missing links" in evolution may no longer be missing.

The 25-foot skeleton of a dinosaur that lived about 116 million years ago has been found in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming and Montana by an expedition from Yale University.

Though not the classic Missing Link long sought between apes and man, the still unnamed creature seems to fill a gap between two dinosaur species: one called Camptosaurus that lived some 20 million years before and the duck-billed dinosaurs that followed the new "link" by about 30 million years, in the late Cretaceous period.

The expedition was directed by Prof. John H. Ostrom of Yale, who has spent the past four summers investigating the Basin area.

Almost the entire skeleton was found, except for parts of the tail and parts of one leg. The bones showed the animal to have had short front legs that may have allowed it to travel on all fours, but such motion was probably "not common," Prof. Ostrom said.

The animals were not built for speed he said. "They were obviously too large to hide easily in most places, except perhaps among the trees and brush of forests."

Although some dinosaurs of the Jurassic and early Cretaceous periods were equipped with armor-like skin and spikes on their "hands," this newly discovered reptile had nothing but a coarse, scaly covering.

Prof. Ostrom described his new dinosaur as being "closer to Iguanodon than anything else known from North America." Iguanodon was a European dinosaur which lived at about the same geological period.

This creature is only one of the missing links from his part of time, said Prof. Ostrom. "Many others still are not discovered and may never be." Chances of filling in the remaining gap in the evolution of North American dinosaurs are pretty slim, since most of the country was then covered by water too deep for land animals.

Even this link is only a fragile one. "Single specimens are not representative of any animal," the professor said, "and the only satisfactory way is to find an adequate sampling of a population."

• *Science News, 89:197 March 26, 1966*

Yale University

DINOSAUR SKULL—The skull of a newly discovered dinosaur species emerged from this early Cretaceous rock found by Yale professor John H. Ostrom, shown at the left, during an expedition to Wyoming and Montana. Yale graduate Peter Parks, who was a member of the expedition, is shown chipping the rock from the fossil.

MEDICINE

New Chest Disease Found in Coal Miners

➤ AN APPALACHIAN pathologist and a Public Health Service (PHS) researcher have uncovered a previously unrecognized, pernicious vascular disease that appears to be present in the lungs of a large number of soft coal miners.

Researchers at the Appalachian Regional Hospital, Beckley, W. Va., in gathering data on 500 living and 300 dead soft coal miners found evidence indicating early involvement of the pulmonary blood vessels, causing high blood pressure in the lungs.

Dr. Werner A. Laqueur, chief of pathology at the hospital, and Dr. Hawey A. Wells, chief of the Beckley research unit of the division of occupational health, PHS, gave these findings in their first official cooperative report on a study of coal workers' chest diseases being made at the hospital.

Forty percent of 150 unselected soft coal miners who died from various causes were shown to have definite enlargement of the right side of the heart, which circulates blood through the lungs. In 33% of the miners, the hearts were required to do more work than they were able to perform, leading to heart failure and death.

The common occurrence of high blood pressure in the lungs early in the disease, and the extremely high incidence of heart strain and failure at the end of the process suggest that a primary vascular lesion is the first symptom of a serious and progressive disease among soft coal miners.

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