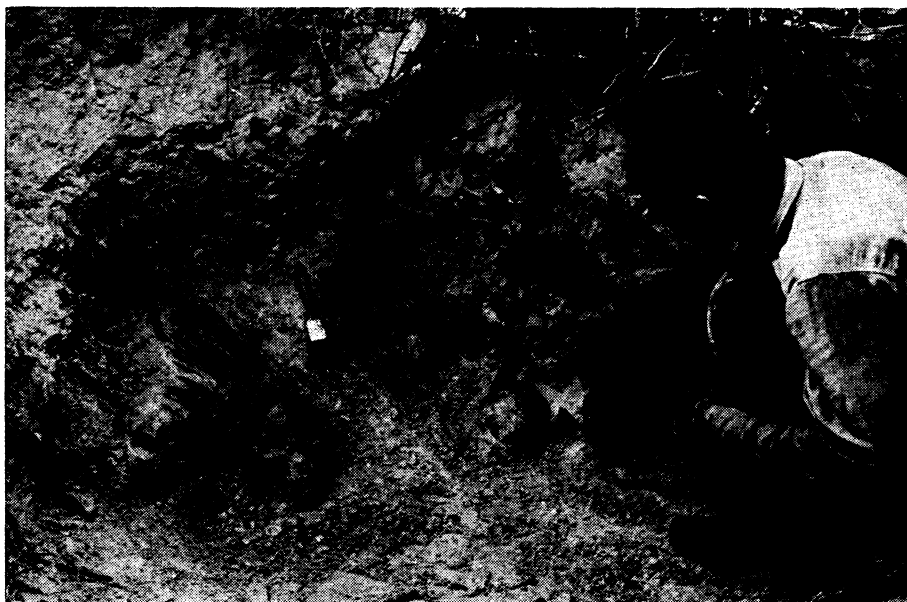




MR. COLLINS, shown as he discovered several of the skulls of the Calusa Indians, near Fort Myers

Prehistoric Skulls from Florida

Anthropology

Prehistoric inhabitants of southern Florida may not have known the fountain of youth that the Spaniards sought in Florida, but they were an extraordinarily healthy lot, judging by bones which have been taken from a burial mound near Ft. Myers. Only one diseased bone was found in the mound, according to Henry B. Collins, Jr., anthropologist of the U. S. National Museum, who excavated at the site.

Mr. Collins has just returned to Washington with 80 skulls from this mound. The skulls are pronounced those of the famous Calusa Indians, the tribe which first greeted Ponce de Leon and routed the youth-seeking Spaniard with a shower of arrows. The Calusa had the reputation of being cannibals and fierce warriors, but they were among the first Indians to be wiped out by the white man, and by the time of the American Revolution they were practically extinct.

"Remains of these extinct Indians have been extremely rare, and very little has been known about them," said Mr. Collins, in describing his expedition. "The skulls show that the Calusa were not particularly large or powerfully built people, as were tribes of northern Florida."

A strange discovery from the mound was that only half a dozen of the 80 burials were children. Whether this means that these Indians were more successful than most tribes in raising their children, or whether babies who

did not survive were disposed of in some other way, cannot be determined, Mr. Collins said.

No Indian possessions were found in the burial mound, with the exception of some fragments of pottery. These broken pieces of pots and jars had been stuck in the ground all around the heads of most of the Indians, probably with some magic rite.

The burial mound was outlined by a border of conch shells over two feet wide, the white shells making a sharp contrast against the black muck of the mangrove swamp. Further excavations were made in a number of large shell heaps, some of them 30 feet high, by Mr. Collins, but these kitchen dumps of the Calusa revealed no traces of cannibalism or other unusual practices.

Science News-Letter, March 24, 1928

The economic loss from automobile accidents figured in terms of persons killed and injured totals almost three billion dollars in the past five years.

Footprints on bricks found during excavations at Beisan are said to be the prints of a child five years old who walked across the soft, half dried brick 3,000 years ago.

As a result of the war, Great Britain expects within the next few years a noticeable decrease in boys and girls of 14 to 18 years, at which ages young people begin entering industry.

Religion Beyond Science

Psychology

The efforts of psychic researchers, who are attempting a "scientific" proof of the existence of the "other world" would, if successful, destroy religion, thinks Dr. Knight Dunlap, professor of psychology at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Dunlap, however, said emphatically that he does not think there is the remotest chance of their success.

The three fundamental religious ideas of God, freedom and immortality will forever remain articles of faith, devoid of any relation to science or positive proof, he declared.

"Religion is based on faith which is founded on desire," Dr. Dunlap stated. "It can be understood, therefore, only by a patient analysis of man's desires. Religion, however, is not based on sex desire or any other single phase of life, but on man's whole system of struggle."

Taking issue with psychoanalytic views, Dr. Dunlap declared that sex desire plays only a relatively small part in the development of religion.

"Too much attention has been paid to the abnormal phases of religion, such as revivals, conversion and epileptic or hysterical phenomena," the psychologist said. "These can be understood only by the knowledge of the religious life of ordinary people."

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Rice Hulls Help Roads

Engineering

In addition to being an excellent health builder, rice is now giving assistance to the road builder.

A California contractor, engaged in grading and bituminous macadam surfacing roads in Alameda County, has had difficulty in hauling wet materials. Certain soils and clays are more or less tenacious upon absorbing a small quantity of water, and although they pass through the bucket of the power excavating equipment without great difficulty, when loaded on trucks and transported any distance the load often has to be re-excavated by hand before it will discharge.

The ingenious California contractor has overcome this difficulty by dusting the beds of the truck with rice hulls between each load. This light covering is sufficient to start the load and it discharges readily when the truck is raised. The hulls are a waste product at California rice mills and are secured for the trouble of hauling them away.

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