

A Queen's Life

Archæology

GEORGE A. REISNER in *Bulletin of the Museum of Fine Arts* (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston):

In closing this preliminary report (on the discoveries at Giza in the tomb of the Egyptian Queen Hetepheres I, mother of Cheops and wife of Sneferuw), I call attention once more to the significance of the material from the secret tomb of Hetepheres I. The canopy, the bed, and the curtain box were given to the queen by Sneferuw. Cheops may have been born on that bed. He it was who gave the carrying-chair and most of the other gold-cased furniture. The toilet boxes and implements, the silver anklets, and most of the vessels had been used by the queen "while alive on earth." In those days when Hetepheres lived in the palace of Sneferuw, Egypt and its monuments presented an appearance very different from that seen by the modern traveler. The queen was a witness of the building of the pyramid of Medum, made perhaps for her father, and that of her husband at Dahshur—monuments seldom visited by the layman. She must have visited the ever-famous temples of the Step Pyramid at Saqqarah built for King Zoser of Dynasty III by Imhotep, the greatest of Egyptian architects. That great complex is still in course of excavation by Mr. C. M. Firth for the Egyptian Government, and has not yet caught the attention of the public. It appears to have been the earliest building of dressed stone in Egypt and served as the inspiration of all the great temples and pyramids at Giza. In the lifetime of Hetepheres I, men were still conscious of the temples of Zoser as something new and wonderful. She saw the pyramid plateau at Giza as a bare dome of rock, a part of the desert thrusting forward into the black fields; and before she died she saw the pyramid of her son rising on that rock. But none of the other familiar pyramids of Giza, Abu Roash, or Abusir, had been conceived nor had the Great Sphinx taken form in the imagination of her grandson Chephren, whose features are portrayed in its face. The queen may have visited great temples of the gods at Memphis and Heliopolis, but they do not exist today; for they were overbuilt ages ago or now lie as hidden ruins under obscure mounds of earth. All the great temples of Upper Egypt, and even the world-famous tombs of Giza and Saqqarah, which the traveler sees, were

Voodoo Worship Vs. Science

General Science

PROF. E. M. EAST, in the *Journal of Heredity*:

Librarians and publishers are agog over the increased quantity of serious reading done by the American public. According to report, instructive books covering many different phases of learning are giving a battle to the lighter forms of literature. This is interesting, if true. Personally, I am a pessimist—at least as regards science. Out of some fifty books for the general public purporting to be psychology that I have recently examined, two-thirds appear to have been written by voodoo worshippers. From a still larger number of volumes on biology, chemistry, physics, and their applications, I find less than half a dozen which give the impression that the authors are acquainted with their subjects. Yet if one were to believe the high-voltage "blurbs" written by the publishers, this scrivening is serious stuff, indited by the world's most celebrated thinkers.

the work of later reigns or later dynasties. Hetepheres I had been dead nearly fifteen centuries before the first tomb was cut in the Valley of the Kings. In her day, Egyptian culture was still a creative force, and the powers of its craftsmen, in particular the masons and sculptors, were only approaching their culmination. It was an age marked by common-sense materialism and high technical skill whose source rose in the dim past of the neolithic age, but a time when the greatness of Egypt lay unknown in the future. Men, whether at court or in the fields, went about their individual concerns scheming and planning as in all ages, unconscious of that which was to be, the accumulated result of all their lives.

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The Peril of Behaviorism

Philosophy

Sir PHILIP GIBBS, in *The Day After Tomorrow* (Doubleday, Doran).

Unfortunately, this philosophy of "Behaviorism" is creeping into other countries, and a friend of mine recently was horrified to hear it expounded to a group of young men in Hyde Park on a Sunday morning. There will be no hope for the world if that school of thought prevails.

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The truth is, an accurate tally would probably show only a moderate increase in the circulation of really authoritative works of a graver character. It is better so, if the choice to be between the high-grade fiction now appearing in this country and appeals to the higher cerebral centers by ignoramus and confidence men. On the other hand, there is a plenteous supply of informative, thoughtful books written by master hands, and there is a demand as evidenced by the sale of the sludge mentioned above. Why do the two so seldom meet? I suspect that it is the fault of the publishers. The old conservative houses, with long lists of books having solid worth, fail to advertise them; the mass production firms are inveigled into pushing nonsense forward as gospel because their mentors on science and the like, if any, seldom are able to distinguish between an Isaac Newton and an Adolphus Mutt.

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Star Life

Astronomy

(Dr. Harlow Shapley, of Harvard, says that stars are kept going by having comets and meteors fall into them.)

A. W. B. in the *London Daily Chronicle*, referring to discoveries first announced by Science Service (*SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER*, June 9, 1928):

My days are filled with peace,
For gone my apprehension is
Lest suns and worlds and stars should
cease,

Since Shapley's intervention is
As full of Hope as aught can be
Of astral immortality.

Stars faded, said our fears,
With terrible velocity;
A hundred million million years,
Our utmost generosity
Could give them as the little span
Through which to cheer the eyes of
man.

But, with celestial food,
We learn that stars are dieted,
And all timidity of mood
Henceforward has been quieted,
For stars may twinkle on, and grow
A trillion trillion years or so.

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The mass of the earth is 81 times
that of the moon.