

The skull represented on the accompanying plate is the type specimen of *Triceratops flabellatus*, Marsh. It was found in the Ceratops beds of Wyoming by Mr. J. B. Hatcher, who also discovered the type of the genus *Ceratops*, in the same horizon in Montana.

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CHEMISTRY

Male Sex Hormone Purified in Vacuum

MALE sex hormone, the glandular secretion responsible for typically masculine appearance and behavior on the part of male animals, is obtainable in a high state of purity by a method of vacuum distillation. The method was described before the Royal Academy of Sciences of Holland by a group of scientists of the pharmacotherapeutic laboratory of the University of Amsterdam. The group consists of Doctors E. Dingmasse, J. Freud, S. Kober, E. Laqueur and A. P. W. Münch.

They placed their glandular material, already partly purified by chemical processes, in a distilling apparatus which was exhausted to a nearly complete vacuum by means of an airpump. When heat was applied, it was found that the hormone came over in a very nearly pure state at temperatures between 80 and 90 degrees Centigrade, somewhat below the boiling point of water. Above 90 degrees other products also were distilled over, reducing the concentration of the hormone in the end-product.

The material obtained is probably not completely pure hormone. It does not wholly crystallize, but forms crystals that lie in an oily-appearing bath.

Thus far only very small quantities have been worked with, and experiments have yet to be made to learn whether the method can be used successfully for the purification of the hormone in pharmaceutical quantities.

Science News Letter, March 28, 1931

Life in
The Bronze Age
investigated by
Montelius

is the subject of the next
CLASSIC OF SCIENCE

ARCHAEOLOGY

Britons of the Stone Age Had Breakfast in Bed

Excavation of Ancient Village Reveals Stone Beds Holding Remains of Meals and Also Hidden Treasures

EVIDENCE that our ancestors of the Stone Age really slept in stone beds has been obtained by Prof. V. Gordon Childe, of the University of Edinburgh in his excavations at Skara Brae, a ruined village in the Orkney Islands off Scotland.

In a report to the British journal, *Antiquity*, Prof. Childe describes the furniture of a bed-sitting room, marvelously preserved, in one of the stone huts at Skara Brae.

The beds, which stand against the wall of the stone hut, are oblong box-like enclosures with stone slabs for sides, held in place by stone wedges driven into the floor. The slabs at the head and foot are taller, like bedposts, and perhaps designed to support a canopy of skins, Prof. Childe suggests. For a mattress, the sleeper probably had ferns or heather.

Eating in bed seems to have been an old custom, judging by the gnawed bones found in the floors of the beds. Beads and other valuables were also found in them, showing that the mattress of a bed was a hiding place for treasures then, as today.

"Members of the family used to sit by day on the edge of the bed's front partition-slab, which is often noticeably worn save at the ends where the 'bedposts' protected it," Prof. Childe stated. "Articles they were making or using are frequently to be met on the floor between this improvised seat and the fire."

Above each bed were recesses in the stone walls in the form of cupboard shelves. In these were kept personal belongings. The room also contained a stone cupboard with two tiers of shelves, a hearth in the center of the room, and several tanks sunk in the floor, apparently for keeping limpets fresh until they should be eaten.

Nine huts were excavated. Furniture in all was similar, it was found.

The village was abandoned precipitately, as a variety of valuable objects left in the huts testifies. Passageways in the houses were tiny, and speedy

flight was attended with difficulties. Prof. Childe found hundreds of beads and fine amulets dropped and scattered at the narrowest point in one doorway and along the passage.

No one ransacked the huts for valuables or removed the stone furniture. The village was buried in sand. Prof. Childe suggests that a storm of great severity was the enemy that routed the villagers.

The age of Skara Brae is not yet determined, but Prof. Childe considers that it was a belated Stone Age settlement, which existed in the British Bronze Age and which has been remarkably preserved through very unusual circumstances.

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PSYCHOLOGY-ETHNOLOGY

Goes to Mexico to Study Differences in Races

TO STUDY the effects of race crossing and to find out what differences, if any, exist between the minds of men of different races, is the purpose of an expedition which has departed for Yucatan, Mexico, under the direction of Dr. Morris Steggerda of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

The expedition will be a follow-up of a study recently conducted by Dr. C. B. Davenport, director of the department of eugenics, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Dr. Steggerda at Jamaica, British West Indies. In Jamaica, a number of psychological tests were given to three different color groups—Blacks, Browns, and Whites—all living under similar environmental conditions. It was found that the Whites received superior scores on 9 of the 12 tests given; in one test, that of form discrimination, there were no certain differences between the three groups; in one, the repetition of seven numbers, the Browns were superior; and in one, the Seashore test of musical ability, the Blacks came out ahead.

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