glass pressed against the hand, and the impression was stamped on paper.

The Eskimo prints have now been studied by Dr. Charles Midlo and Dr. Harold Cummins of the Department of Anatomy, Tulane University. A report which has just been completed demonstrates the existence of a distinct racial trend in the combinations of patterns and configurations of Eskimo prints.

In the science of dermatoglyphics, anthropologists hope to gain a new criterion for distinguishing the races of man. Among the physical traits used in the comparative study of human groups are stature, facial features, and, most important of all, the measurements and proportions of the skull.

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STRANGE FRUIT

This wild rose is still a rose, and the prickly "gooseberries" are nothing but a curious type of galls, produced by the sting of an insect looking for a good green stem in which to deposit her eggs. Photographed by Cornelia Clarke.

ARCHAEOLOGY-GEOLOGY

Drying Lakes and Soil Erosion Destroyed Mayan Empire

BECAUSE the face of the land in which they lived began to change insidiously, fatally, the Mayas of prehistoric America temporarily lost their grip on civilization, and their first empire fell. This, at least, is the view advanced by a geologist who has returned from the region where America's greatest prehistoric civilization once flourished and then mysteriously succumbed.

The geologist, Dr. C. Wythe Cooke of the U. S. Geological Survey, was sent by the Carnegie Institution of Washington to study the region within traveling range of the institution's camp at Uaxactun, Guatemala. Reporting his observations in the Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences, Dr. Cooke describes the hill and lowland country as it is, and as it doubtless appeared in the days when the Mayas had their beautiful cities and their farms there.

The hills today are forested with big trees and a little underbrush. The lowlands are flat plains covered with a tangled mass of gnarled and twisted trees, festooned with vines. In the rainy season these low plains are flooded. At one time evidently the plains were lakes all the year round, affording plenty of water for the region and good transportation. Both water supplies and transportation are highly inadequate today.

Dr. Cooke suggests that quite possibly the transition from lake to lowland took place during the time of the Mayan Empire. If so, this would explain many facts about Mayan economics now hard to understand.

"One may imagine the Peten District of Guatemala when first occupied by the Mayas to have had a thick fertile black soil," he states. "During the many centuries of the Mayan occupation more and more of the soil was washed away until the bare limestone was exposed. Then the land was abandoned and reverted to the jungle."

The erosion of the soil would have been enormously accelerated when the Mayas lived there, Dr. Cooke explains, for the Mayas cut down the forest to grow quantities of corn for their large population.

If the geography of the region in Mayan days had been as it is now, burden bearers would have had a hard time of it traveling from one city to another. But if we think of the lakes as they once were, obviously travel about the land in boats would have been easy, with only short overland distances to be covered.

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ENTOMOLOGY

Farmers Losing in Insect War As Grasshoppers Take to Air

THERE is war in the middle west. Aerial warfare. Embattled farmers are fighting a "plague of locusts," great flying, migrating armies of grasshoppers, that sweep clean of any green thing fields that a few days before were covered with growing crops.

Government entomologists in Washington watch their battle maps of this latest offense of insects against man. In the field, in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa, poison warfare experts are combatting the grasshopper menace. Inviting food poisoned with deadly arsenic is spread in the path of the moving hordes of grasshoppers. Already countless thousands of the invading insects have been killed.

Fast as the enemy ranks are thinned, reenforcements take their place at the front. Young grasshoppers, till now incubating in the warm soil, have joined the insect "troops." Hoppers with newly-developed wings make surprise attacks on farmers who thought themselves rid of the pest which has already inflicted damage amounting to several million dollars.

An area of 11,000 square miles in south central South Dakota with an even larger area in north central Nebraska is the scene of the most intense fighting. The states immediately surrounding form the zone second in severity of attacks, and local warfare with grasshoppers has been reported in all other western states to the Pacific and as far east as New York.

With the grasshopper outbreaks increasing in size, the farmers are likely to suffer even more extensive losses, says Dr. W. H. Larrimer, Federal entomologist in close touch with the situation.

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