

## ANTHROPOLOGY

# Nordics May Owe Features To Sufficient Iodine in Diet

**D**OES THE PROUD Nordic, whose long-shaped head is a badge of his racial identity, owe that head shape to getting enough iodine in his diet?

It seems a possible conclusion, if the newest theory on head form is accepted by science.

The theory is advanced by Dr. Knight Dunlap, professor of psychology at the Johns Hopkins University, in *Science*.

Dr. Dunlap observed that the conspicuous goiter belts of the world are areas where broad-headed individuals prevail. The Swiss Alps and nearby regions in France, Germany, Italy, and Austria form one goiter belt. The Great Lakes region is another. Certain parts of the Scandinavian countries, and some mountainous regions of India, are notable for the commonness of goiter.

Delving further into ethnic geography, Dr. Dunlap found that other areas conspicuous for broadheaded people also report considerable goiter.

## Principle Sought

The combination of facts seemed to him significant, and he sought the principle of human development involved.

The goiter belts are characterized by a deficiency of seafood in the people's diet. This iodine lack disturbs the thyroid gland, and the result is goiter. But so closely do the endocrine glands work together, Dr. Dunlap points out, that if the thyroid is disturbed, the balance or pattern of the whole endocrine system would be disturbed. Since these glands control growth, and since head form is a growth characteristic, he reasons that glandular disturbance causes the shape of the head to broaden.

## Long and Broad of It

Summed up, the theory is that broad-headedness is a result of glandular adaptation to a certain environment.

An explanation of why certain human stocks and groups have long heads or broad heads would be of great usefulness to anthropologists, who are studying the world's people, past and present. Dr. Dunlap's explanation, he says, seems to clear up some problems of head form, and to complicate others.

When a people who have been broad-

heads for generations later become long-heads, does that mean that they have become adapted to their environment? This is the view that Dr. Dunlap advances. It puts a different light on Indian and Negro anthropological studies. Anthropologists who have studied the changes in head form in ancient Indian settlements or in Negro tribes have attributed a change, usually, to the coming of immigrants into the group, or to an entire new group replacing the old. Now, anthropologists may have to consider the importance of the glands in shaping heads.

*Science News Letter, March 31, 1934*

## ARCHAEOLOGY

## Temple of Antiquity Restored in Drawing

**S**TUMPS of walls and the ground plan of one of the world's oldest temples were a remarkable discovery unearthed at Tepe Gawra, Mesopotamia, by the joint expedition from the University of Pennsylvania Museum and the American Schools of Oriental Research. After careful research by the field director, Charles Bache, and the architect of the expedition, E. B. Müller, a drawing of the building, reproduced on this page, has been made.



ANCIENT TEMPLE OF THE EAST

Mr. Müller says that using the known plan he could have completed the building in about ten days. He chose the one with the simplest roof, commenting that in any restoration, the temple is impressive and shows what excellent architects the Gawrans were.

The temple ruins were found in the ninth layer of ruins counting from the top of the site, and the antiquity of the temple is at least from 3500 B. C.

The seal of this temple (insert) was impressed in mud and attached to the cord on the sacks of grain or other offerings brought to the temple.

*Science News Letter, March 31, 1934*

## CHEMISTRY—PHYSICS

## Triple Weight Hydrogen Rare At Princeton

**P**RINCETON scientists have searched carefully for the new triple weight hydrogen (tritium) which Lord Rutherford recently announced had probably been synthetically produced by bombardment experiments with deuterons or the hearts of double weight hydrogen. But they are sure that hydrogen of mass 3 does not occur in ordinary water more plentifully than one part in 500,000,000.

The mass spectrograph researches of Dr. Walker Bleakney and A. J. Gould also show that in the purest heavy water thus far obtained the concentration of this third hydrogen is less than one part in 50,000. Double weight hydrogen or deuterium occurs one part in 5,000 in common hydrogen on earth.

*Science News Letter, March 31, 1934*