

ANTHROPOLOGY

Ancient Melbourne Man Gets Remodeled Skull

► FLORIDA'S ancient Melbourne man has a remodeled skull—and a new claim among the earliest inhabitants of this continent.

The remodeling was done by Dr. T. Dale Stewart, curator of physical anthropology of the Smithsonian Institution, after searching for and finding bone fragments, missing from the crushed human skull discovered about 20 years ago near Melbourne, Fla.

Most anthropologists identified the original round skull, crudely reconstructed, as that of a "recent" Florida Indian. Dr. Stewart tore the skull apart and refitted the pieces with the newly-found fragments into a long-headed skull, similar to the earliest human skeletal remains in this country.

Stone arrow heads, lying directly under the bones of a prehistoric mammoth at the original Melbourne excavation, strengthened the much debated theory that humans and mastodons lived in Florida at the same time—possibly 10,000 years ago, near the end of the last ice age.

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MEDICINE

Control Measures Halt Japanese "B" Encephalitis

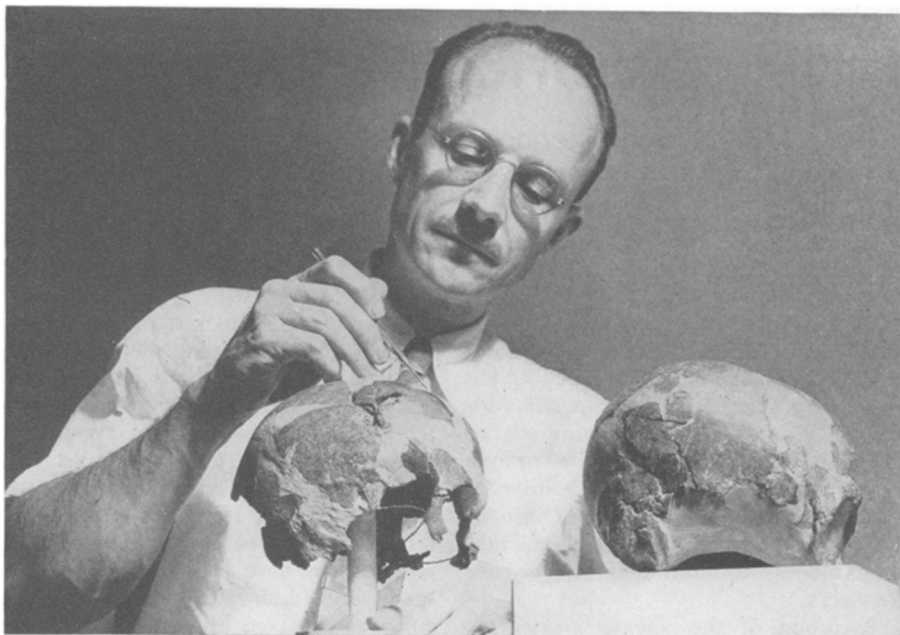
► VACCINATION and mosquito control have virtually eliminated the danger of Japanese "B" type encephalitis to American service personnel in the Orient.

This is the statement of Harold F. Gray, University of California mosquito control expert, who has returned from a mission to Japan for the War Department.

Only isolated cases of this so-called sleeping sickness are likely to occur among American service personnel in the future, Gray says. Army medical authorities have made American bases virtually mosquito-free islands. Gray pointed out that no cases have occurred among service personnel in Japan this year.

Reasons for the absence of any cases are that the number of cases among the Japanese was low this year, and mosquito control and vaccination appear to be effective countermeasures.

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NEW SKULL—Dr. Dale Stewart, anthropologist of the Smithsonian Institution, inspects the skull he has remodeled. The skull at the right is the original crudely reconstructed one.

MEDICINE

Q Fever Is Widespread

It is believed that an outside carrier of this disease exists, possibly mites. Better methods of diagnosis must be developed.

► THE "Q" in Q fever may well mean questions unanswered.

Widespread outbreaks of the disease, often diagnosed as influenza or a form of virus pneumonia, suggest that better methods of detecting the disease must be developed, warns an editorial in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Oct. 12).

Studies of an epidemic of Q fever among troops returning to the United States from Italy showed that approximately one-third of a group of 1,683 soldiers was infected. Although no proof of the course of infection or mode of transmission could be found, it was believed that an outside carrier existed.

Outbreaks among troops in Italy, Greece, and Corsica suggested that mites riding on particles of dust from hay and straw may carry the Q fever germ. Ticks infected with the germ, *Rickettsia burneti*, have been found in many parts of the United States. Whether pigeons, rats, mice, cattle and lower animals serve as reservoirs of infection is another unsolved question.

Further evidence that the disease is more widespread than originally believed came from an outbreak of Q fever among laboratory workers at Fort Bragg. In this outbreak the principal source of infection was believed to be infected egg embryos with the germ spread by airborne droplets.

Diagnosis of Q fever is complicated by the similarity of the germ to the pneumonia virus and other filtrable viruses. The rickettsia germ passes through filters like a virus, but it is large enough to be seen under the microscope. The Australians who discovered the infection in 1935 dubbed it "Q" fever, a kind of pneumonia. The exact relation between Q fever in Australia and viruses of atypical or virus pneumonia in this country offers another question for further investigation.

Symptoms of Q fever may include fever, chills, sweats, weakness, muscle aches, frontal headaches, chest pain, occasional mild abdominal cramps and diarrhea.

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