

the past few years have archaeologists solved the riddles that gave them the key to knowledge of the Hittites and their empire.

SEE THROUGH THE FOREST—Millicent Selsam—*Harper*, 46 p., illus., \$2.50. A book for children about the birds, animals and plants of the forest.

SIMULTANEOUS CONTACT-INSTRUMENT FLIGHT TRAINING—Alexander C. Williams, Jr., Robert C. Houston and Lowell E. Wilkerson—*University of Illinois Bulletin* Volume 53, Number 42, 32 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, Urbana, Ill. Reporting an investigation to determine the feasibility of incorporating both instrument and contact flight training in a private pilot syllabus.

THERMODYNAMICS AND STATISTICAL MECHANICS: Lectures on Theoretical Physics, Vol. V—Arnold Sommerfeld, Edited by F. Bopp and J. Meixner, Translated by J. Kestin—*Academic Press*, 401 p., illus., \$7.00. The author died while working on this volume. It was then completed by the editors.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Missionary-Killing Indians

► THE INDIANS responsible for the recent killing of five missionaries in eastern Ecuador are members of a tribe usually friendly to strangers who have been properly introduced, according to Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology.

The Indians, inaccurately called the Aucas, are described as "happy in disposition" by Dr. Stirling.

"They laugh and talk a great deal, although they are somewhat shy in the presence of whites until they have become well acquainted," Dr. Stirling reported. He has made a first-hand study of the neighboring Jivaro Indians, who hunt and shrink heads.

The term Auca (pronounced Owkah), according to Dr. Stirling, is not the name of any particular tribe. Auca is a Quechua term used in the Andean highlands to refer to any pagan Indian groups as contrasted with those who have adopted Christianity as their religion.

The Indians who did the recent killing are members of the Zaparo tribe, which lives between the Curare and Napo rivers, Dr. Stirling said.

He is not sure why the Indians attacked the missionaries, but he noted that white man's interference has been "generally disastrous" to the Zaparo tribe.

Historically, when the white man came in contact with the Zaparos, Dr. Stirling said, he brought many things, some of which had unfortunate consequences for the Indians. Among these Dr. Stirling cited new diseases, clothes that have an unhealthy effect on Indians in a hot climate, and interference with the Zaparo's patterns of living.

"They resented interference with their own religion and the attempt to substitute for it ideologies completely foreign to their own background and completely incomprehensible to them," Dr. Stirling stated.

THE TRUE BOOK OF ANIMALS OF THE SEA AND SHORE—Illa Podendorf—*Childrens Press*, 47 p., illus., \$2.00. A book for children.

THE TRUE BOOK OF TROPICAL FISHES—Ray Broekel—*Childrens Press*, 47 p., illus., \$2.00. To teach children about fish pets and how to care for them.

U. S. INFORMATION AGENCY 5TH REPORT TO CONGRESS—Theodore C. Streibert, director—*Govt. Printing Office*, 38 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. Reporting an intensive world-wide effort to broaden understanding of the United States.

YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE: And How to Live With It—William A. Brams—*Lippincott*, 160 p., illus., \$2.95. Written by a physician, this book is directed to the layman in order that he may learn the facts about blood pressure in its various phases.

YOUR MOST ENCHANTED LISTENER—Wendell Johnson—*Harper*, 215 p., \$3.00. About saying what you mean, and hearing and understanding what you say.

Science News Letter, March 17, 1956

Bans forbidding polygamy were a particular burden, according to Dr. Stirling. Because of the high death rate among the men of this warring, hunting people, women were always a surplus.

"Inevitably, sooner or later, the Indians revolted against this restriction on their liberties," Dr. Stirling said.

In the more remote regions where there was virtually no white population, as among the Zaparos and Jivaros, these revolts were successful and the mortality rate among missionaries was high.

Any number of things could have brought on the recent attack, "but it would have been cause enough for the Zaparos if they realized that their visitors from the sky were missionaries," the ethnologist stated.

The Zaparo Indians, Dr. Stirling noted, are very much like the other primitive tribes of the eastern Andes. They have no political or tribal organization. Instead of living in a village, they live in a single community house. They seldom stay more than a few years in one locality. They have no chiefs or leaders.

Medicine men, believed by the natives to control supernatural forces, are the most influential persons in a given community.

Dr. Stirling does not think the missionaries' airplane scared the Indians. They are not afraid of the complicated modern inventions, he said, but rather of simpler things.

"The occasional killing of a few people is an oft-repeated pattern that has been going on for the past four centuries and which will probably continue as long as efforts are made to change their way of life," Dr. Stirling concluded.

Science News Letter, March 17, 1956

A scale has been especially designed and built for the sole purpose of weighing a meteorite believed to weigh between 36 and 37 tons.

• RADIO

Saturday, March 24, 1956, 2:05-2:15 p.m. EST
"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. Aaron Beller, chief of department of neurosurgery, Hadassah University Medical School and Hospital, Jerusalem, will discuss "Progress in Neurosurgery."

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