



FOSSIL GOAT SKULL—Discovery of a fossil goat skull from the Quaternary deposits of Iowa has been reported by Dr. H. A. Palmer. The partial cranium is of unusual interest to paleontologists because it is thought to represent the first evidence of the goat group in North America. Like many other fossil stocks it is believed members of this group migrated from Eurasia to North America via the Bering Strait route. The horn cores of the specimen indicate an animal with horns considerably longer than those of a domestic goat, and one closely allied to the modern ibex. Accordingly, the name *Ibex iowensis* has been suggested by Dr. Palmer as the name for the sub-genotype of North America.

PSYCHOLOGY

Effect of Surroundings

► Judgment of the characteristics in people's faces is affected by the kind of a room in which the judgment is made.

This is shown by an experiment conducted at Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., and reported in the *Journal of Psychology* (April) by Drs. A. H. Maslow and N. L. Mintz.

They asked 42 students to give their impressions of a group of photographs of faces. The prints were photographic negatives. The dress, hair style and other details in the pictures were arranged so as not to give any particular impression. The students were asked to rate the photographs on energy or fatigue and on displeasure or well being.

The students made their decisions in one of three rooms.

One was decorated and furnished to be beautiful. It had beige-colored walls, an indirect, overhead light and furnishings to give the impression of an attractive, comfortable study. A Navajo rug on the floor, drapes at the windows, paintings on the walls, and some sculpture and art ob-

jects on the desk and table completed the room.

An ugly room had battleship-gray walls, an overhead bulb with dirty, torn shade and "furnishings" to give the impression of a janitor's storeroom in disheveled condition. Tin cans served as ashtrays and window shades were dirty and torn. Littered around were pails, brooms, mops, dirty-looking trash cans and assorted refuse.

For an "average" room in the experiment, a professor's office was used. This room also had battleship-gray walls, but it had an indirect overhead light. It was furnished with conventional office furniture, including desks, chairs, metal bookcase, metal filing cabinet.

In the beautiful room, the students saw significantly more energy and well being in the photographs they judged than did the students in the average or ugly rooms. Somewhat higher ratings were assigned in the average room than were assigned in the ugly room.

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ENGINEERING

Need Cheap Measures For Earthquake Safety

► FIFTY YEARS of study and experience since the disastrous San Francisco earthquake have produced the engineering know-how to make buildings safe from earthquakes, according to two University of California at Los Angeles engineers, who are making a study of building response to tremors.

"The problem now is to make the safety provisions economical," C. Martin Duke and David J. Leeds, whose research is aimed at such economy, concluded.

Basic data on building behavior during earthquakes have been collected in U.C.L.A.'s huge earthquake "laboratory," actually the engineering building itself.

Strain gauges, installed in the structural framework of the building during its construction, are connected to a central recording facility, which also houses a strong motion seismograph. Thus the actual response of the structure can be recorded where ground acceleration is known.

An ultrasonic testing device is being designed to provide inspection data on the conditions of the interior of masonry walls during construction or after possible earthquake damage.

A photographic survey of damage from California's Kern County earthquakes of 1952 showed that well designed and constructed frame, masonry or concrete buildings were undamaged, while buildings around them of inferior construction were reduced to rubble or seriously damaged.

Another project is probing the uncertain area of soil and geological relationships to earthquake intensity.

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SEROLOGY

Find Blood Groups in Cornea of Human Eyes

► MORE SUCCESSFUL GRAFTING of eye corneas to restore eyesight may result from a discovery of blood group specific substances in human eyes, reported by four scientists from Jerusalem in *Nature* (May 5).

In 20 cases, they found that persons who had belonged to blood groups A-5, B-5, AB-3 and O-7 had the same blood group materials in their corneas. The persons had been blood donors before death. Samples of their corneas were examined not later than 12 hours after death.

The four scientists are Drs. E. Nelken and I. C. Michaelson of Hadassah-University Hospital and Drs. D. Nelken and J. Gurevitch of Hebrew University and Hadassah Medical School.

Failures of corneal transplantation, the scientists think, might be due to the fact that the donor and recipient do not belong to the same specific blood group.

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