



ANCIENT SHOPPING PLACE—The fallen column belongs to a civic building located in the market center of a 22-century-old Greek "mystery city" being excavated by Princeton University archaeologists in central Sicily. Terracotta bathtub in foreground dates from Roman occupation of the site between 200 and 60 B.C.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Greek Shopping Center

► A SPLIT-LEVEL "shopping center" where Greek housewives did their buying some 22 centuries ago was found in Serra Orlando, in central Sicily.

Its discovery was reported to the Archaeological Institute of America meeting in Philadelphia by Prof. Richard Stillwell of Princeton University.

The commercial center was the central market place for a city, which may have had as many as 30,000 inhabitants during the early Greek period from 300 B.C. to 200 B.C. Joining the two levels of the center was a series of monumental flights of steps that were probably also used to seat large crowds at public assemblies and religious ceremonies.

The plan of the center is called by Prof. Stillwell a "grandiose architectural layout." It included an elaborate civic building. The center, however, and also an ambitious plan for the development of the city, were never completed.

The magnificent stairways were covered in silt and later, in 212 B.C., Romans built a new town over the top of the buried Greek metropolis.

The Roman town was the home of a group of very wealthy families. Their jewels and coins and art objects were among the archaeological treasures brought home by Prof. Stillwell and the Princeton University Expedition.

A Roman lamp factory containing hun-

dreds of lamps and the actual kiln in which they were fired were among the shops built on top of the ancient Greek shopping center.

The Roman settlement lasted until about 60 B.C., when it was again abandoned and overgrown by forest, where it lay buried until it was rediscovered in 1955 by Prof. Erik Sjoqvist, co-director with Prof. Stillwell of the Princeton Expedition.

Dr. Sjoqvist plans to spend next summer excavating the Acropolis, or fortress hill of the Greek city. There he hopes to find inscriptions that will show the presently unknown name of the city and its place in history.

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EDUCATION

Use Interlingua as First Step to Language Study

► USE of the natural international language, Interlingua, as a first step toward foreign language instruction in our high schools and colleges was advocated by Dr. Alexander Gode, chief of SCIENCE SERVICE'S Interlingua Division, at the Modern Language Association meeting in Washington.

Interlingua is based on the western European languages and combines a universal vocabulary with a simplified grammar.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Radiostrontium Called Nuclear Menace Now

► THE DANGER of all-out nuclear and biological warfare was pictured to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in New York in a paper by J. D. Teresi and C. L. Newcombe of the U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory, San Francisco.

Radiostrontium, the worst offender among 60 or more fission product isotopes resulting from bombs, is the principal radioactive hazard to the farms and forests if atomic war comes.

Even now, Mr. Newcombe said in presenting the joint paper, available test data show strontium 90 is a serious potential hazard to man and lower animals that seems likely to increase in concentration per square mile and also in geographic extent throughout the world.

"More ominous," he said, "it is certain to increase to extremely hazardous levels in time of nuclear war to the extent of limiting the use of great natural resources, thereby imposing a serious threat to national survival."

In the event of biological warfare, he said, the basic problem will be identifying the nature and extent of the germ attack and the potential hazards from the spread of the disease through native animals to man.

Then control measures must be taken to limit the spread of the disease.

The report called for studies of various biological areas of the nation to evaluate disease hazards and the control of epizootics that might be started in time of war. These would be similar to the ecological studies of desert conditions made by the University of Utah at Dugway.

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PHYSICS

Five New Twins of Einsteinium Created

► FIVE NEW TWINS, or isotopes, of the artificial element, einsteinium, have been created by scientists at the University of California.

Einsteinium, named in honor of the late Albert Einstein, is chemical element number 99. The new isotopes were found by bombarding the man-made elements of berkelium and californium with helium ions and deuterons. (See SNL, Aug. 20, 1955, p. 116.)

Discovery of the isotopes, numbers 248, 249, 250, 251 and 252, is announced in the *Physical Review* (Dec. 1, 1956) by two groups of scientists.

Drs. A. Chetham-Strode and L. W. Holm found one, einsteinium 248, while the other four were created by Drs. Bernard G. Harvey, Alfred Chetham-Strode Jr., Albert Giorso, Gregory R. Choppin and Stanley G. Thompson.

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