

ROCKETS AND MISSILES

Satellites, Rockets Give Picture of Atmosphere

► SATELLITES and rockets are giving a new picture of the earth's upper atmosphere, Dr. John W. Townsend Jr. of the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, reported.

He told an international symposium on space meeting in San Antonio, Texas, that the relative amounts of chemicals making up the air remain essentially constant from ground level to about 60 miles. Above this altitude, physical and photochemical effects change the character of the atmosphere.

Above several hundred miles, Dr. Townsend reported, the earth's atmosphere gradually merges with the atmosphere of the sun and of local space.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1958

ARCHAEOLOGY

Lake Titicaca Site Dates To Pre-Christian Times

► LAKE TITICACA between Bolivia and Peru in South America has been an important center of upland Indian population for thousands of years.

Definite radiocarbon chronology reported to the American Philosophical Society meeting in Philadelphia by Dr. Alfred Kidder, II, associate director of the University Museum, Philadelphia, shows that even before men knew how to make pots, they were gathering fish from this great lake.

Important early site on the Bolivian side of the lake is Chiripa. An ancient village there with double-walled houses and sliding doors was dated by Dr. Kidder as about 500 B.C. Below these ancient remains were found the simpler houses of an even earlier people.

The great site of Tiahuanaco, famous as the probable hub of widespread influence in the days before the Incas, has now been dated back to early Christian times by the radiocarbon method.

On the Peruvian side of the lake, the Pucara culture was found to be somewhat earlier than Tiahuanaco, Dr. Kidder reported. An even earlier culture, called Galuyu, was found by Dr. Kidder near Pucara. This culture, quite different from the Pucara culture and obscure in its origins, is new to archaeologists.

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Questions

ARCHAEOLOGY—Where are the recently discovered Greek ruins? p. 323.

MEDICINE—What antibiotic was given to persons in a test to determine its efficacy in preventing colds? p. 324.

PHYSICS—How is magnetic writing using an electron beam accomplished? p. 329.

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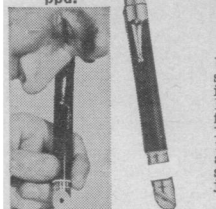
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